

DYNAMITE
20

VAMPIRELLA®



Reynolds
2012

DYNAMITE
20

VAMPIRELLA®



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FABIANO 12

DYNAMITE
20

VAMPIRELLA®



Vinicius
Andrade



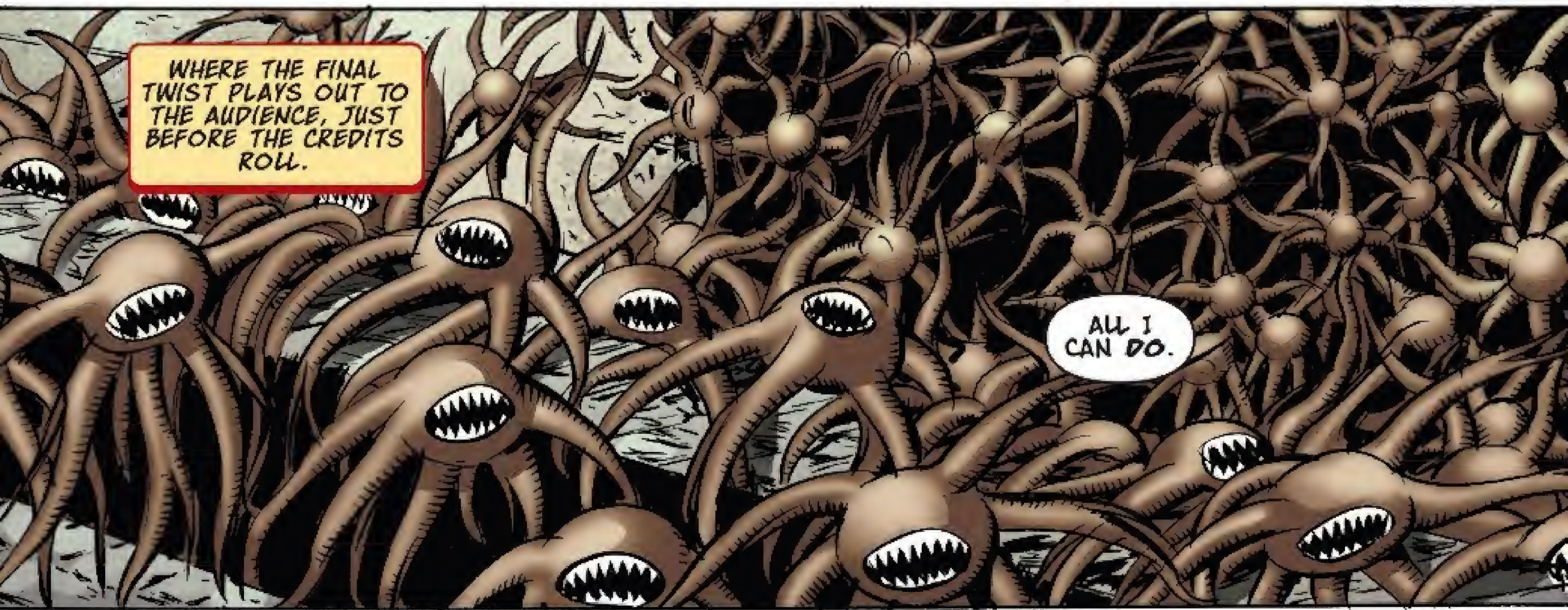
THIS IS WHERE
THE STORY
SHOULD END.

YOU
STILL REFUSE
TO SEE.



IN A LURID MOVIE OR
TRASHY TELEVISION
PROGRAM, THIS IS
THE MOMENT WHERE
THE MUSIC SWELLS.

ALL
I AM.



WHERE THE FINAL
TWIST PLAYS OUT TO
THE AUDIENCE, JUST
BEFORE THE CREDITS
ROLL.

ALL I
CAN DO.



THE ENEMY IS DEFEATED.
THE HANDSOME BOY
KISSES THE PRETTY GIRL.

ALL I HAVE
BECOME.



BUT I DON'T
EVER SEEM TO
GET A HAPPY
ENDING.

THE HANDSOME
BOY IS A
MONSTER.

THE PRETTY GIRL
IS WALKING
WOUNDED.

AND THIS IS
FAR FROM
THE END.



I OWE IT
ALL TO YOU,
VAMPIRELLA.

THERE IS
ONE WAY YOU
COULD REPAY
ME.



YOU
COULD GIVE
UP AND
DIE.



I'VE BEEN
DEAD.
IT'S
NOT THE
LIMITATION
ONE MIGHT
EXPECT.



FUNNY THING
ABOUT
EXPECTATIONS.



LIFE HAS
A WAY OF
DEFYING
THEM.



NNNF

WHUDD



BUT WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE...

EVERY LIFE YOU'VE STOLEN.



YOU HAD TO EXPECT THIS.

KRAKKKKK



WHAMMMMM

DEATH IS TOO GOOD FOR YOU.

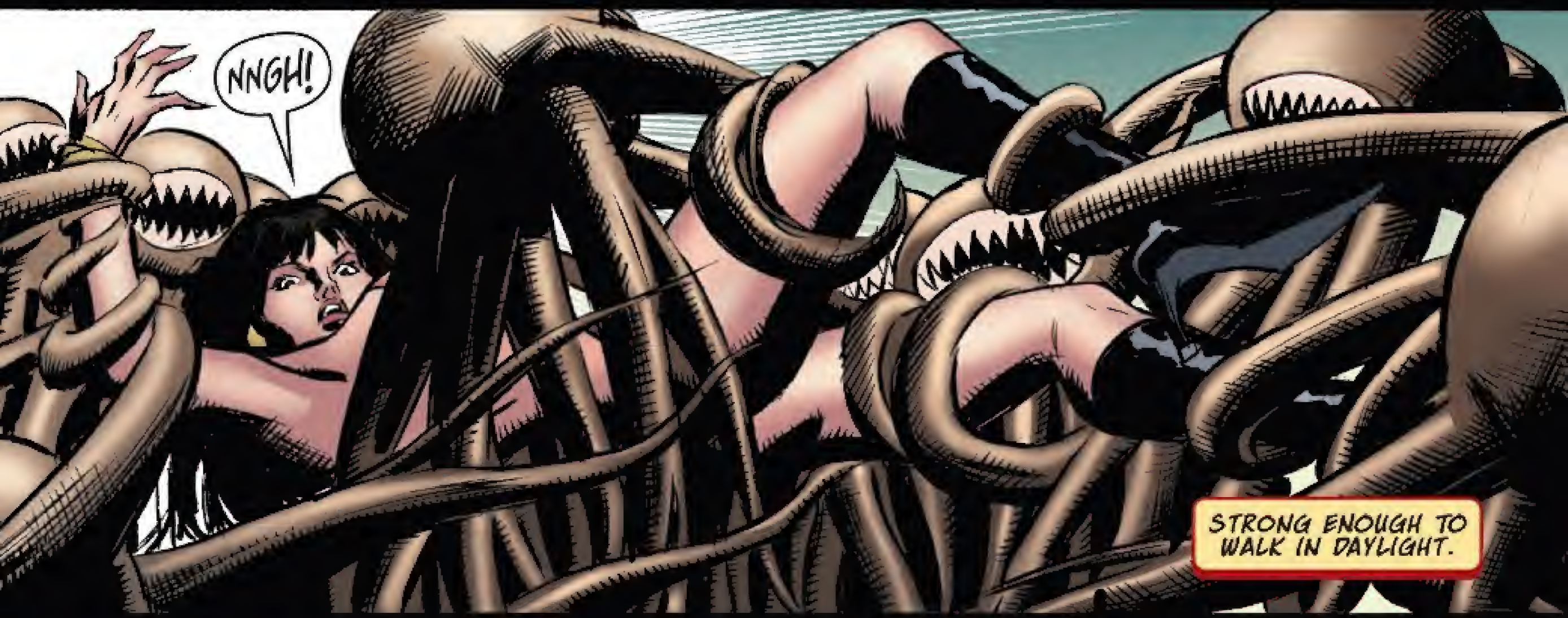
BUT I'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR IT.





...YOU HAVE NO POETRY WITHIN YOU, DO YOU?

HE'S STRONGER THAN HE'S EVER BEEN.



NNGH!

STRONG ENOUGH TO WALK IN DAYLIGHT.



POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BREED LEGIONS OF THESE...THINGS.



AND HE'S CONTROLLING HIS TEMPER. PLAYING AGAINST HIS VANITY?

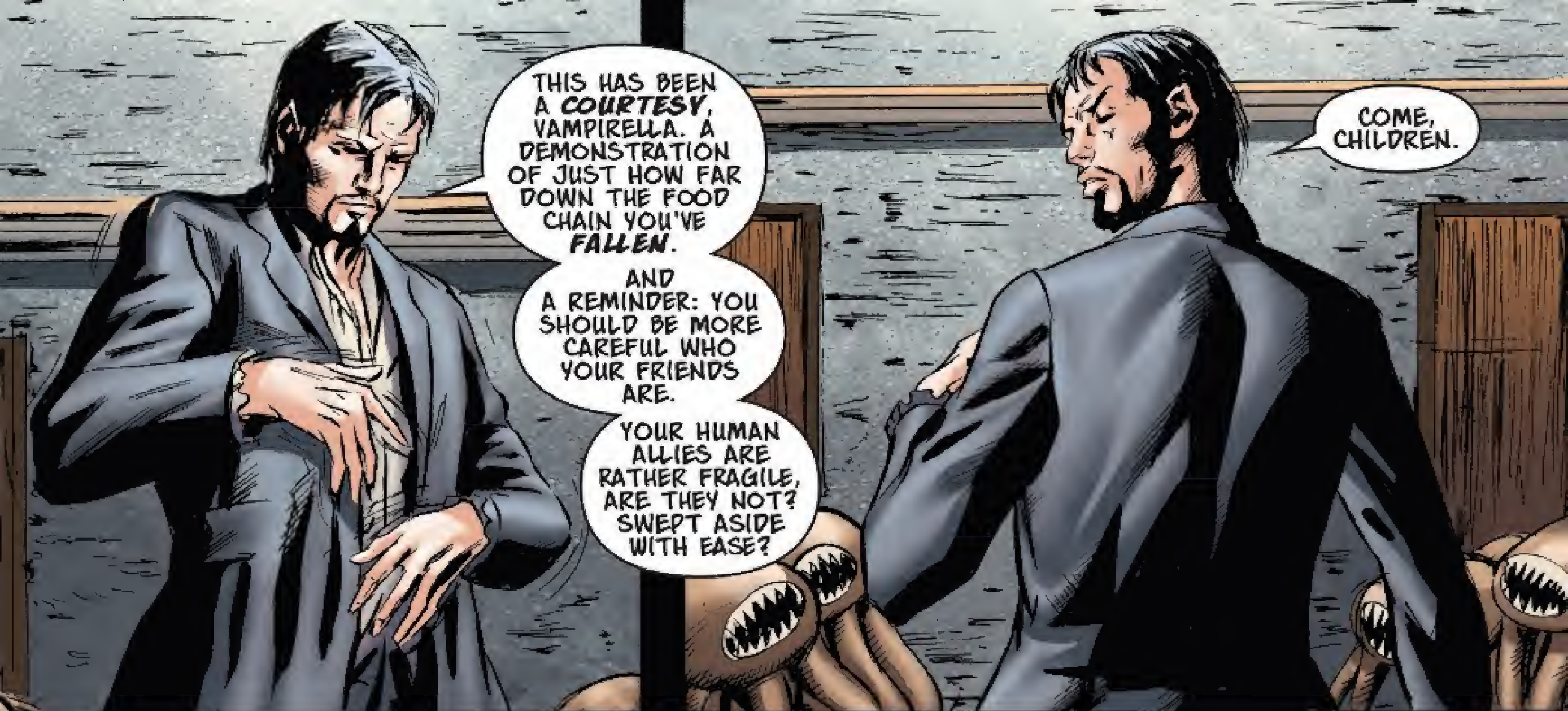
HOLD ON.
I'U--
NNFFF!
GET YOU OUT.



THAT STRATEGY JUST ISN'T GOING TO WORK.

OH, THAT SIMPLY WON'T DO, HOLY MAN.

THIS IS A LESSON VAMPIRELLA WILL JUST HAVE TO LEARN ON HER OWN.



THIS HAS BEEN
A **COURTESY**,
VAMPIRELLA. A
DEMONSTRATION
OF JUST HOW FAR
DOWN THE FOOD
CHAIN YOU'VE
FALLEN.

AND
A REMINDER: YOU
SHOULD BE MORE
CAREFUL WHO
YOUR FRIENDS
ARE.

YOUR HUMAN
ALLIES ARE
RATHER FRAGILE,
ARE THEY NOT?
SWEEP ASIDE
WITH EASE?

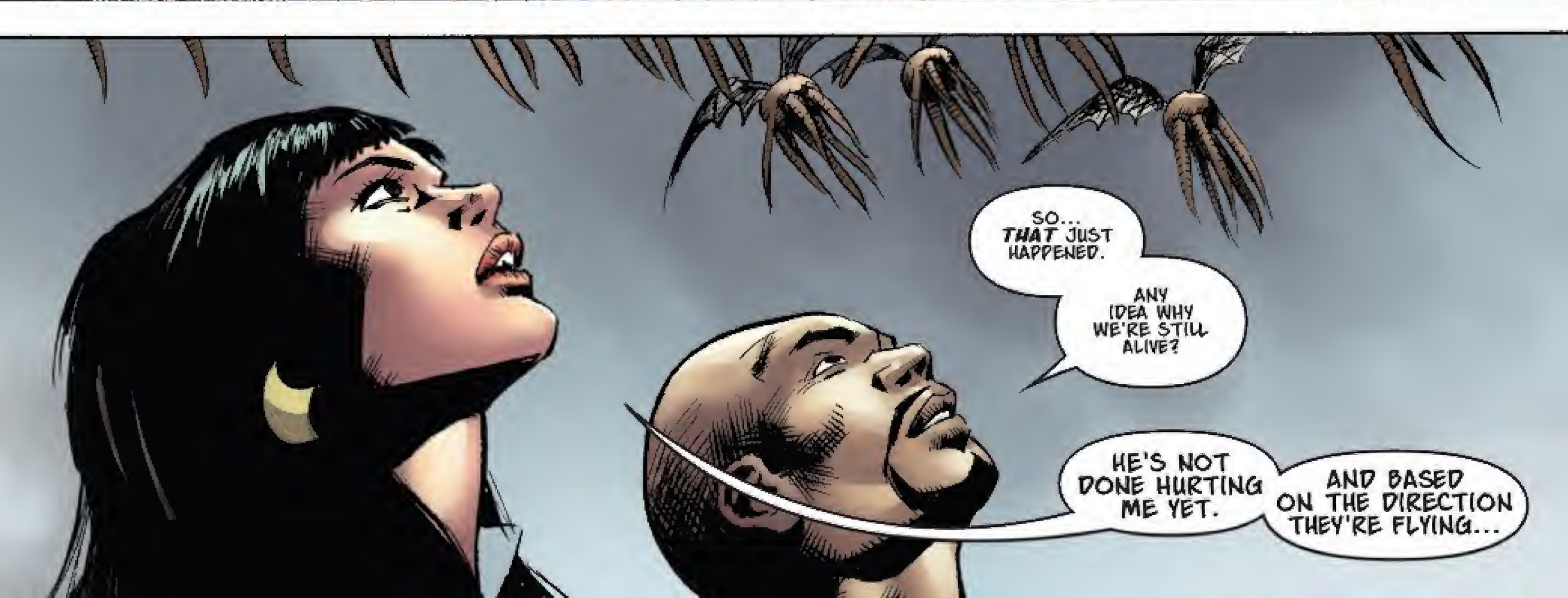
COME,
CHILDREN.



THIS HAS
BEEN A PLEASANT
ENOUGH
DIVERSION...



...BUT
WE'VE GOT
A SCHEDULE
TO KEEP.



SO...
THAT JUST
HAPPENED.

ANY
IDEA WHY
WE'RE STILL
ALIVE?

HE'S NOT
DONE HURTING
ME YET.

AND BASED
ON THE DIRECTION
THEY'RE FLYING...



"...I THINK I
KNOW WHERE HIS
NEXT STOP IS."

TRACKING
MOVEMENT

SIGHTINGS
THROUGHOUT
THE CITY

CONTACTS
INBOUND

MULTIPLE
BOGIES,
UNKNOWN
ORIGIN

RESPONSE
TEAMS TO ARMING
STATIONS

THE VESTRY.
SECRET HEADQUARTERS
OF CESTUS DEI.
3,000 FEET BELOW
THE VATICAN.

GOD IN
HEAVEN, WHAT
THE HELL ARE
THEY

REINFORCING
PERIMETER



--GET RESPONSE
TEAMS ALPHA
AND BRAVO IN
PLAY, NOW.

SOMEBODY
PAINT ME THE
PICTURE.



WE'RE AT CONDITION
RED, TRACKING
MULTIPLE INBOUND
CONTACTS.

ORIGIN
POINT IS THE
BORGO.

AND WE'RE
SHOWING MOVEMENT
UNDERGROUND,
THROUGH THE SEWERS
AND CATACOMBS.



THE BORGO.
WHERE WE SENT
VAMPIRELLA AND
NAIL TEAM.

THEY'RE
HEADING
HERE.

AND THEY'RE
HEADING FOR
VAULT X.



CHRIST.

FIRE UP ALL
THE SHOOTER
TEAMS...





--MOVE IT, DOUBLE QUICK!

THIS ISN'T A DRILL, KIDS.



REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING, CHECK YOUR CORNERS, COVER YOUR TEAMMATES.

AND FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, MAKE SURE YOU LOOK UP ONCE IN A WHILE. I DON'T WANT ANYONE GETTING WHACKED LIKE SOME MORON IN A...

...HORROR MOVIE?

ARROGANCE.

OVERCONFIDENCE.

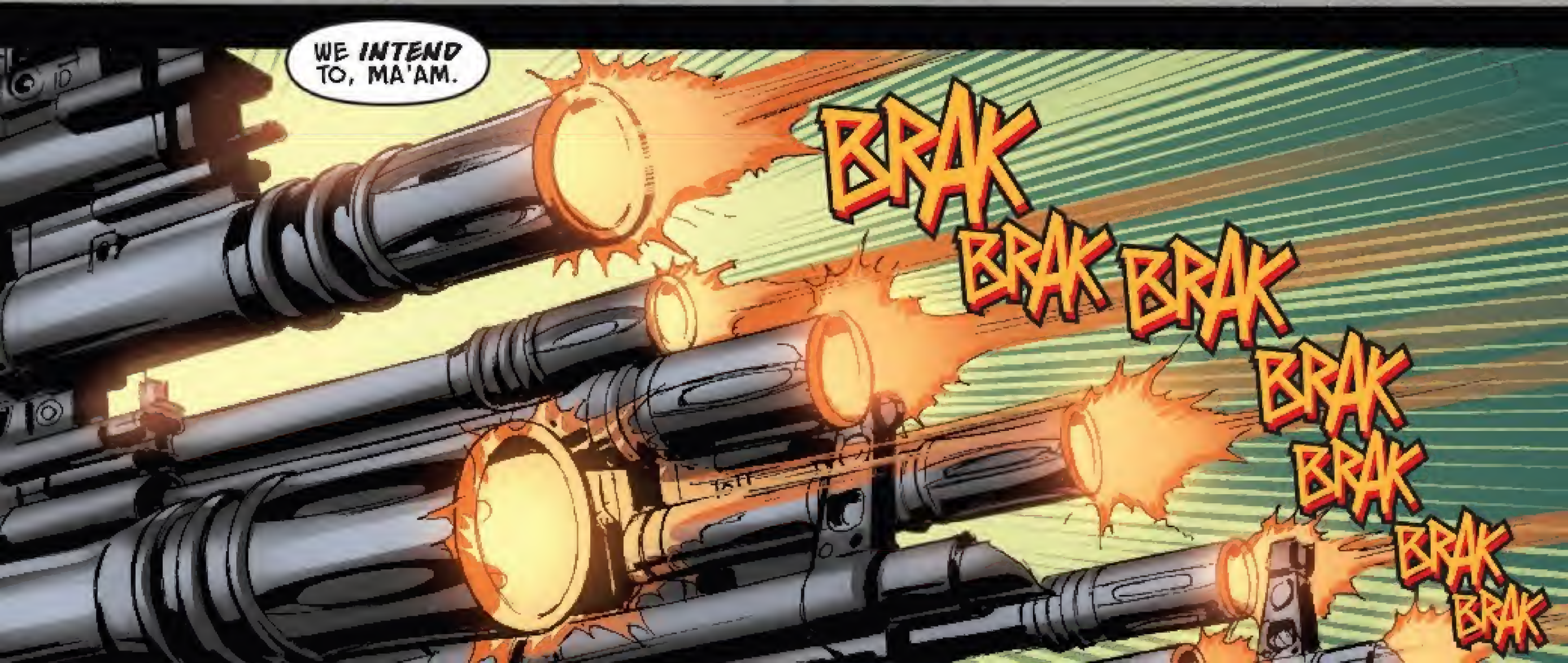


BUT NOT ENOUGH FEAR, YES?

PLOP



CONTACT, CONTACT, GUNS UP--



MORE THAN ONCE,
VLAD HAS MENTIONED
MY "FRIENDS."

REMINDED ME THAT
CESTUS DEI WOULD HAVE
KILLED SOFIA DURING
THE DEBACLE AT ANI.

WHY? TO
WHAT END?

TO DEEPEN THE
WEDGE BETWEEN ME
AND MY ALLIES?

IT'S
DOWN
HERE.

YOU'RE SURE,
GRIGORY?

HIS REAPPEARANCE, ALONG
WITH LE FANU, AND VON
KREIST'S RESURRECTION--
NOT TO MENTION THE
DEMON I ENCOUNTERED
IN THE ALLEY--FEELS
ORCHESTRATED.

OF COURSE.
YOU FEED
ON BLOOD,
VLAD.

BUT OLD
GRIGORY? HE
FEEDS ON
SECRETS.

OLD ADVERSARIES,
ACTING IN CONCERT.

WELL,
THEN.

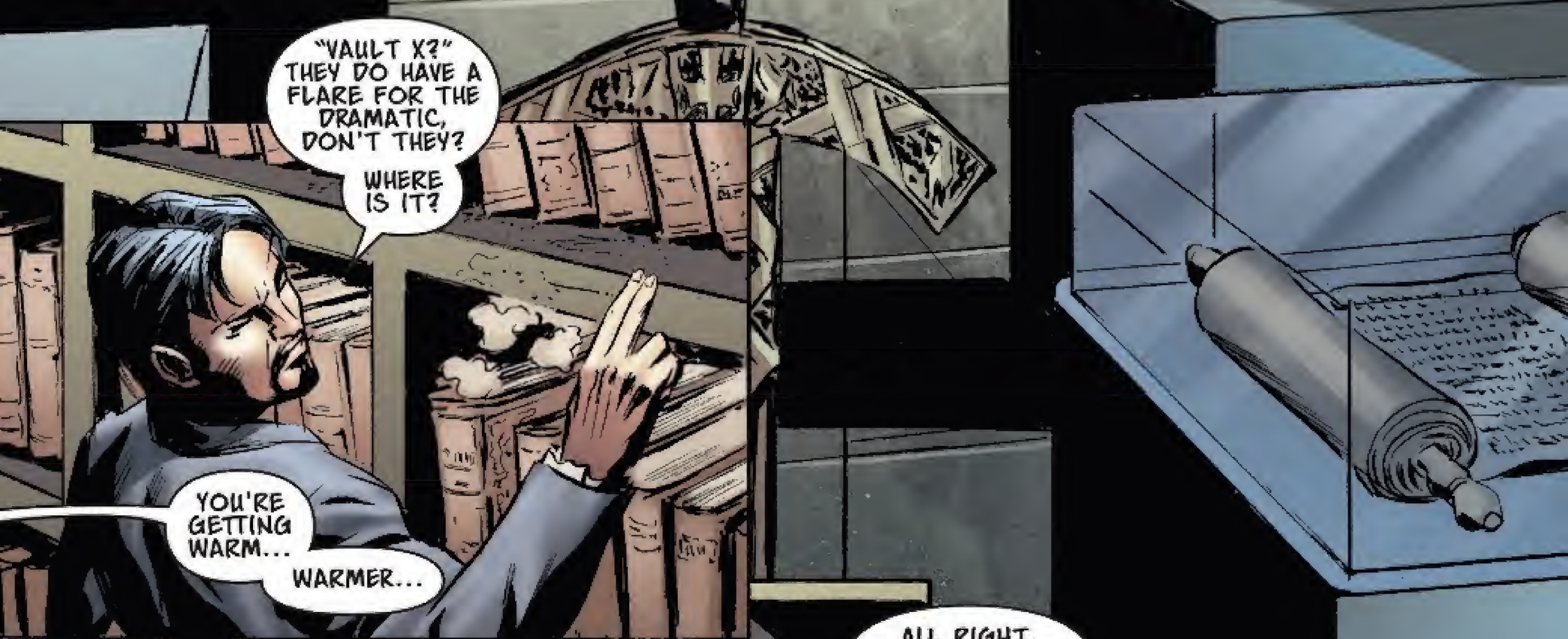
TIME TO ENTER
FREELY AND OF
MY OWN WILL,
I SUPPOSE.



YOU HAVE
TO HAND IT
TO THE LITTLE
BASTARDS:

FOR ALL
THEIR FAULTS,
THEY'RE QUITE
ORGANIZED.

VAULT X.
THE STOREHOUSE
FOR ALL THE LITTLE
OCCULT TREASURES
THE VATICAN HAS
AMASSED OVER THE
CENTURIES.



"VAULT X?"
THEY DO HAVE A
FLARE FOR THE
DRAMATIC,
DON'T THEY?

WHERE
IS IT?

YOU'RE
GETTING
WARM...
WARMER...



HOT.

ALL RIGHT,
DEMON. I'M
PREPARED TO KEEP
MY PART OF THE
BARGAIN.

AND SOON,
IT'LL BE TIME TO
KEEP UP YOUR
END...



"...BECAUSE WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A VISITOR."

Hm.
VERY SAD.

THE KERASHI SHIMEI. DIDN'T I KILL YOU ALREADY?

THERE WAS NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE HAWKING BEHIND.

Hm.
NOT KILLED. MERELY RETURNED TO THE PIT.

KNOWING HIM, HE'S COMMANDERING SOME POOR CIVILIAN'S CAR TO GET HERE.

ONCE AGAIN, I'M ON MY OWN.



NO.
A DIFFERENT BARGAIN HAS BEEN STRUCK.

YOU MAY PASS.



FINE.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



VLAD.

VAMPIRELLA.

YOU REMEMBER GRIGORY, I ASSUME?

YES. THE PIECE OF CRAP WITH THE PET WEREWOLVES. WE'VE MET.*

*VAMPIRELLA #12-13.--J.R.



YOU'VE DRAGGED A NUMBER OF MY ENEMIES BACK INTO MY GUNSIGHTS, VLAD.

BUT YOU KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END.

WITH MY TEETH IN THEIR THROATS, AND YOU STAKED TO THE WALL.

SO ENOUGH OF THE SUPERVILLAIN GARBAGE.

...YOU'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A CHESS PLAYER, HAVE YOU?

YOU SEE THIS AS A CONTEST OF FEROCITY, OF SAVAGERY. OF MUSCLE AND SINEW AND BONE.



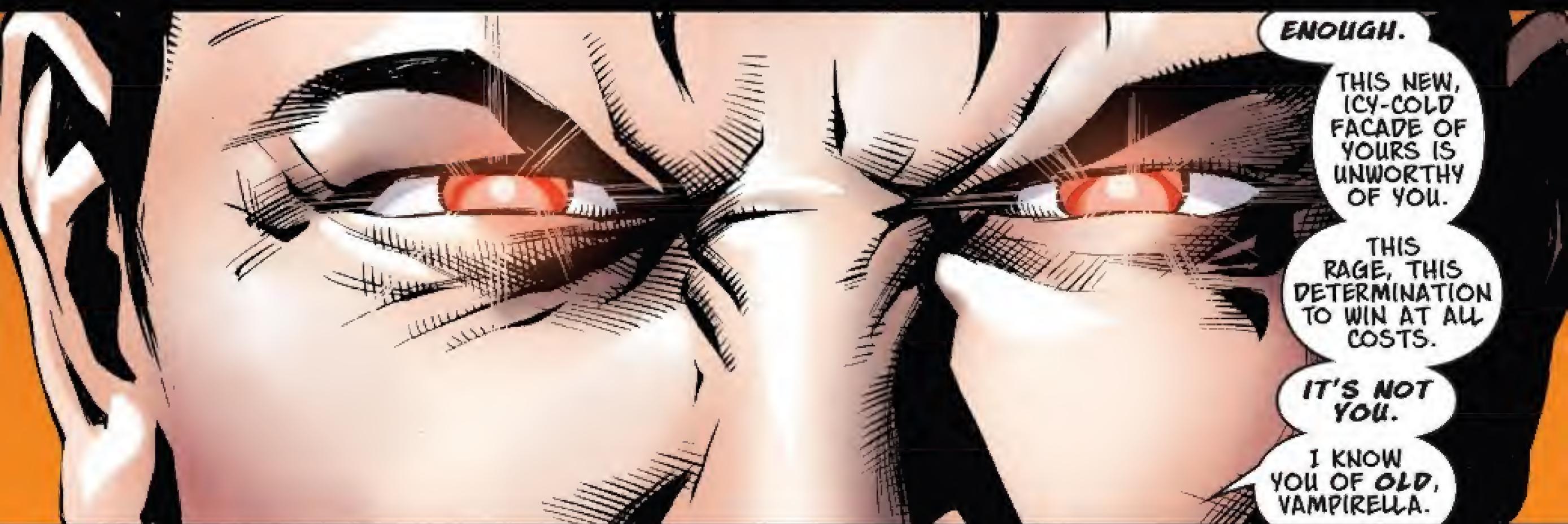


SO I'M
NOT PLAYING
THAT GAME
ANY MORE.



SMACK

NO.
APPARENTLY,
YOUR NEW GAME
PLAN IS TO
BORE ME TO
DEATH.



ENOUGH.

THIS NEW,
ICY-COLD
FACADE OF
YOURS IS
UNWORTHY
OF YOU.

THIS
RAGE, THIS
DETERMINATION
TO WIN AT ALL
COSTS.

IT'S NOT
YOU.

I KNOW
YOU OF OLD,
VAMPIRELLA.



I'VE PLACED MY BOOT ON
CESTUS DEI'S THROAT
FOR ONE REASON
ONLY.

TO REMIND
YOU OF WHO
YOU ARE.

SNAP

TO DELAY
ANOTHER POINTLESS
PHYSICAL BATTLE, BY
SHOWING YOU THAT
I CAN WIPE THEM
ALL OUT IN AN
INSTANT.

"YOU'VE SEEN A
FEW HUNDRED OF
MY CHILDREN."

"THERE ARE ALREADY
THOUSANDS INSIDE
THIS COMPLEX."

"THERE IS
NO ESCAPE."

"THERE IS
NO HOPE."

"THEY WILL ALL
DIE, AND THERE'S
NOTHING YOU CAN
DO TO SAVE THEM."

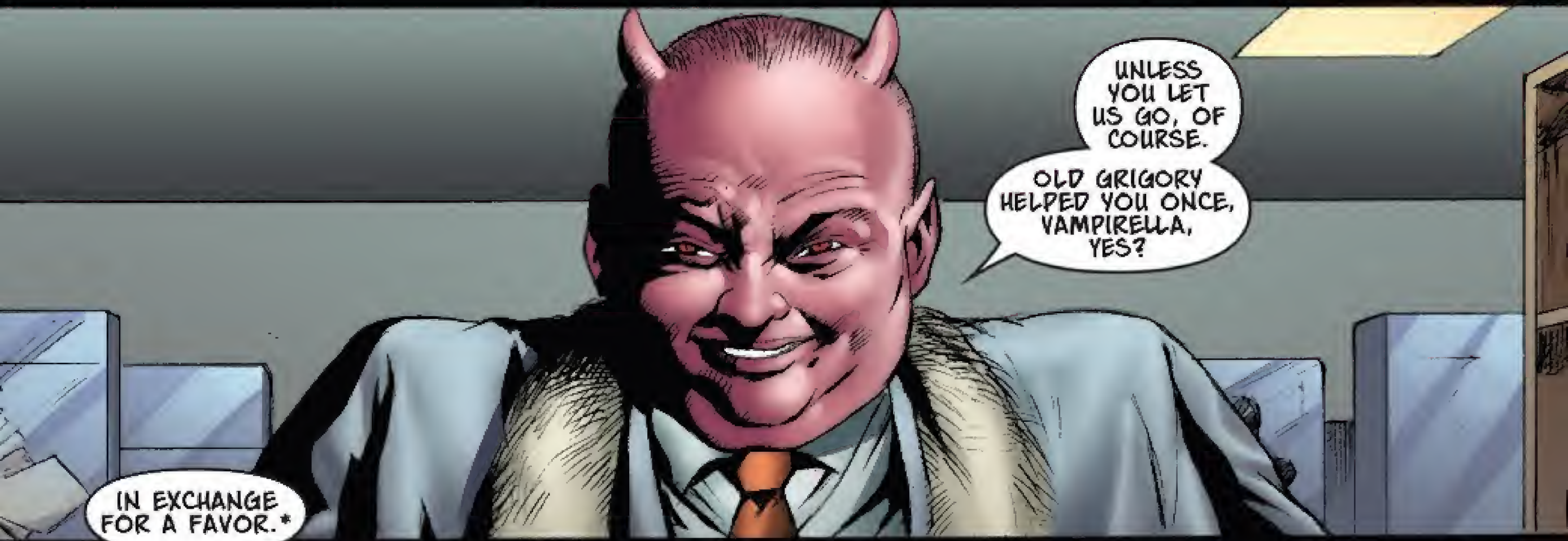
"AND ALL THAT
BLOOD WILL BE ON
YOUR HANDS, TOO."



YOU CAN'T KILL ME IN TIME.

THE KERASHU SHIMEI CAN DELAY YOU LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ORDER THEIR DEATHS.

UNLESS?



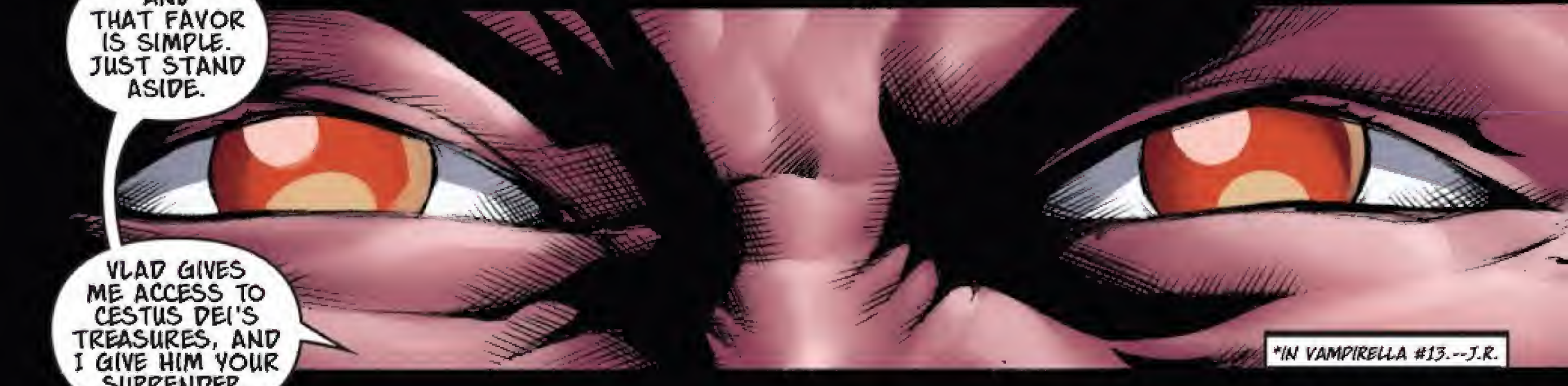
UNLESS YOU LET US GO, OF COURSE.

OLD GRIGORY HELPED YOU ONCE, VAMPIRELLA, YES?

IN EXCHANGE FOR A FAVOR.*

AND THAT FAVOR IS SIMPLE. JUST STAND ASIDE.

VLAD GIVES ME ACCESS TO CESTUS DEI'S TREASURES, AND I GIVE HIM YOUR SURRENDER.




*IN VAMPIRELLA #13.--J.R.




EASY-PEASY, YES?

VLAD SCRATCHES MY BACK, AND I RUIN YOUR DAY.



THERE'S ALWAYS
A WAY OUT.

THERE'S ALWAYS
AN ANSWER.



IT'S JUST A PUZZLE,
AND EVERY PUZZLE
HAS A SOLUTION.

EXCEPT WHEN
THERE'S ISN'T.

ALL RIGHT,
VLAD.


YOU WIN.




I KNOW.

I WANT
YOU TO ALWAYS
REMEMBER
THIS.


I WANT YOU TO
KNOW THAT I COULD
HAVE KILLED THEM
ALL, COULD HAVE
DROWNED YOU IN AN
OCEAN OF THEIR
BLOOD.




BUT I
DIDN'T.




WHEN YOU WERE
FIRST TOUCHED BY
YAG-ATH VERMELLUS,
YOU WERE THE CHIME
OF A DINNER BELL
TO AN ENDLESS AND
UNDYING LEGION
OF ANCIENT
HORRORS.



AND
IT'S TRUE THAT
YOU'VE LOST THIS
BATTLE, BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE TO KEEP
IN MIND:



THERE'S
A WAR
COMING...



AND PERHAPS
YOU'VE BEEN
FIGHTING FOR
THE WRONG
SIDE.

NEXT:
THE INQUISITION

NEW CREATIVE TEAM! NEW STORY ARC!



JERWA
MICHAEL

VAMPIRELLA®



Reynolds
2012

NEW CREATIVE TEAM! NEW STORY ARC!



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NEW CREATIVE TEAM! NEW STORY ARC!

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FABIANO

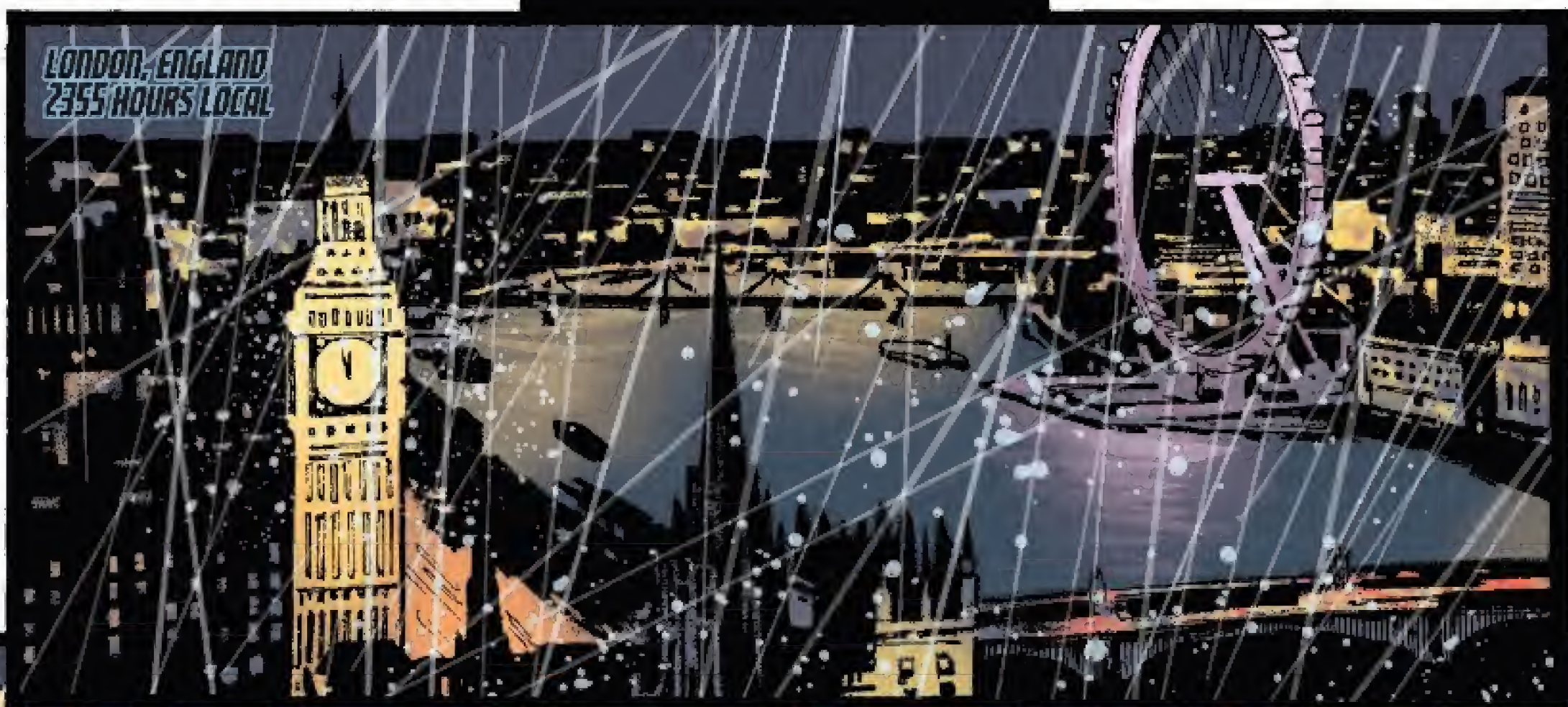
NEW CREATIVE TEAM! NEW STORY ARC!

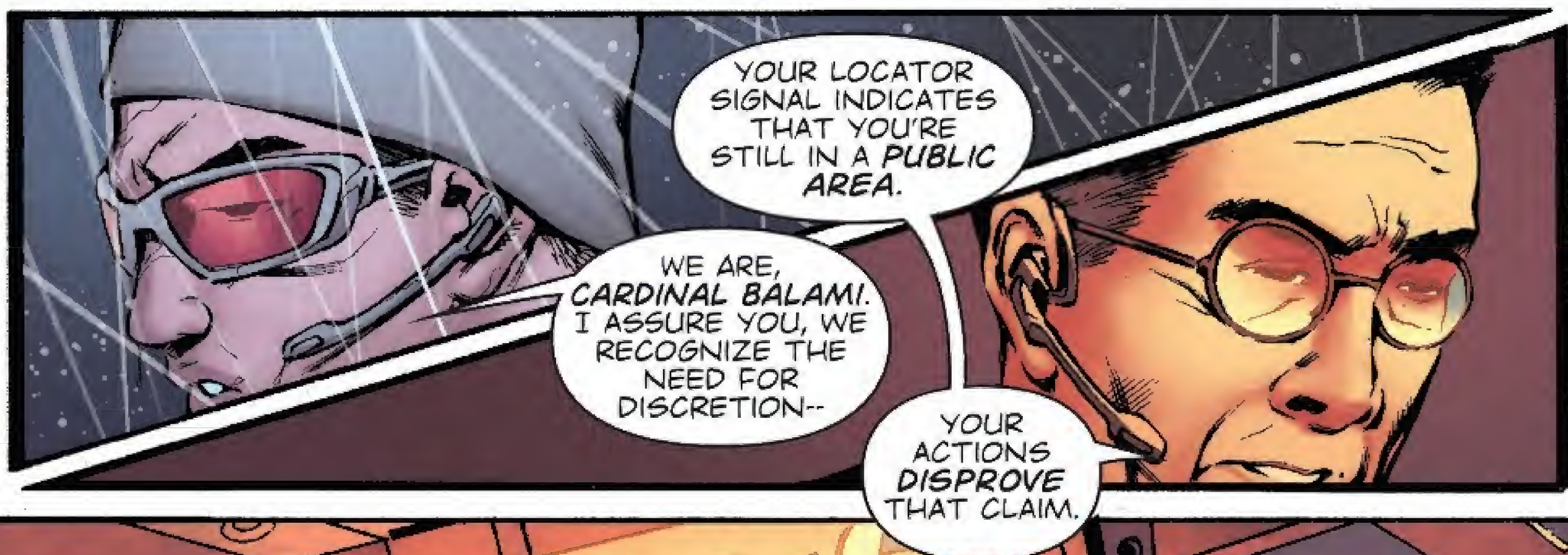


JERWA
MICHAEL

VAMPIRELLA®







YOUR LOCATOR
SIGNAL INDICATES
THAT YOU'RE
STILL IN A PUBLIC
AREA.

WE ARE,
CARDINAL BALAMI.
I ASSURE YOU, WE
RECOGNIZE THE
NEED FOR
DISCRETION--

YOUR
ACTIONS
DISPROVE
THAT CLAIM.



CARDINAL, I
APOLO--

STOP
SPEAKING
AND START
LISTENING.



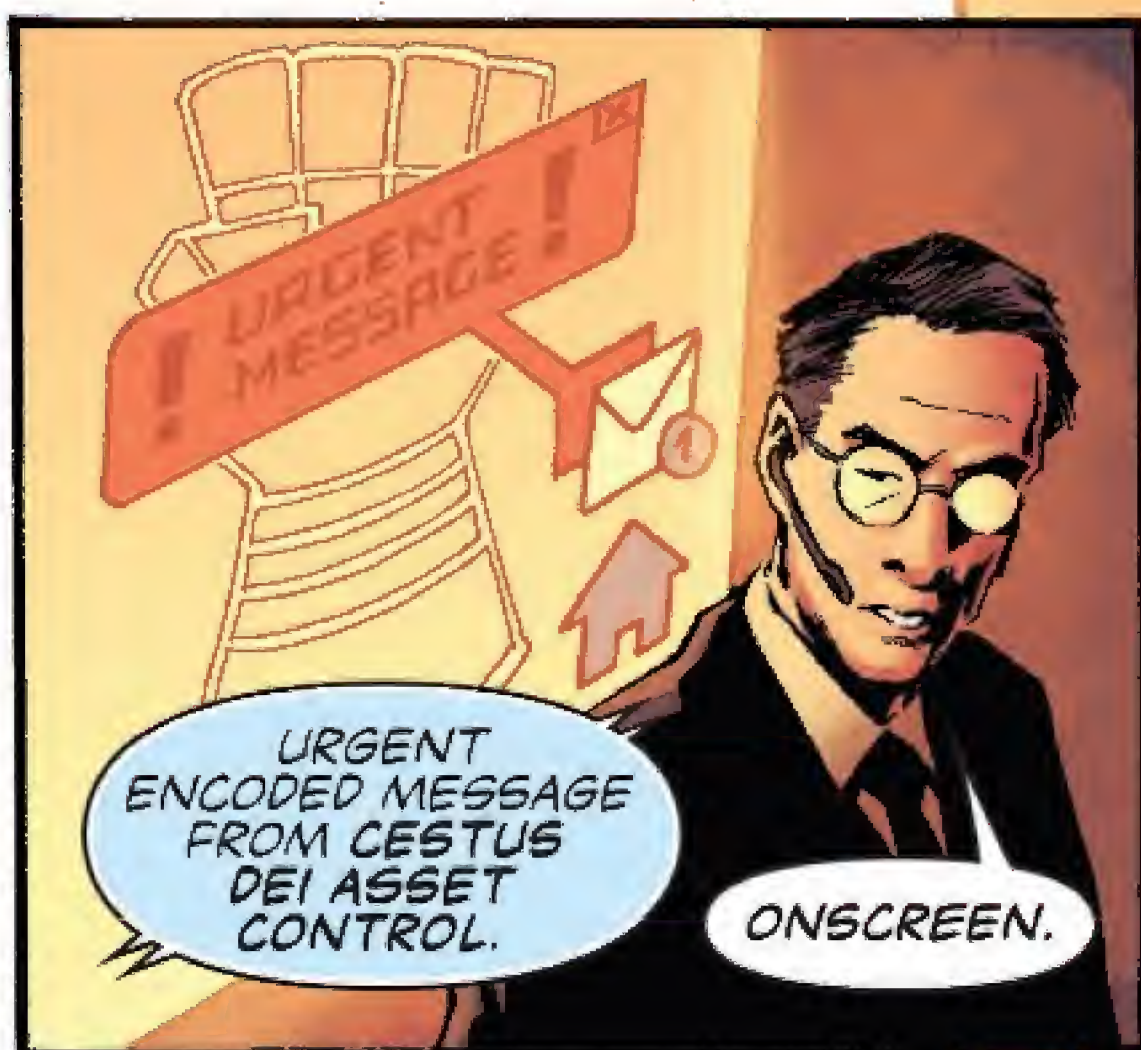
SUBJECT: MURRAY, SOFIA

I WANT
SOFIA MURRAY
AND HER PSYCHIC
STOWAWAY CAPTURED
OR KILLED WITHIN
THE NEXT HOUR.

SUBJECT: VON KREIST
STATUS: PRIORITY-ONE TARGET



FAILURE WILL
CARRY A SEVERE
CONSEQUENCE.



URGENT
ENCODED MESSAGE
FROM CESTUS
DEI ASSET
CONTROL.

ONSCREEN.



ASSET: VAMPIRELLA
HANDLER: CARDINAL
ARTEMIO BALAMI
TIME ELAPSED SINCE
LAST COMMUNICATION:
24h 1m
((CONSTITUTES VIOLATION
OF SERVICE OBLIGATION))

I'VE JUST
RECEIVED NEW INTEL,
RED TEAM. THE SECRECY
OF THIS MISSION MAY
HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED,
AND THIRD-PARTY
INTERFERENCE IS
NOW A SERIOUS
CONCERN.

"YOUR
TIMETABLE
HAS JUST BEEN
ACCELERATED.
SOFIA AND
VON KREIST
MUST BE DEALT
WITH NOW..."



VAMPIRELLA: INQUISITION

Part 1: A Faith-Based Initiative

"...OR WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE A MUCH
LARGER PROBLEM."

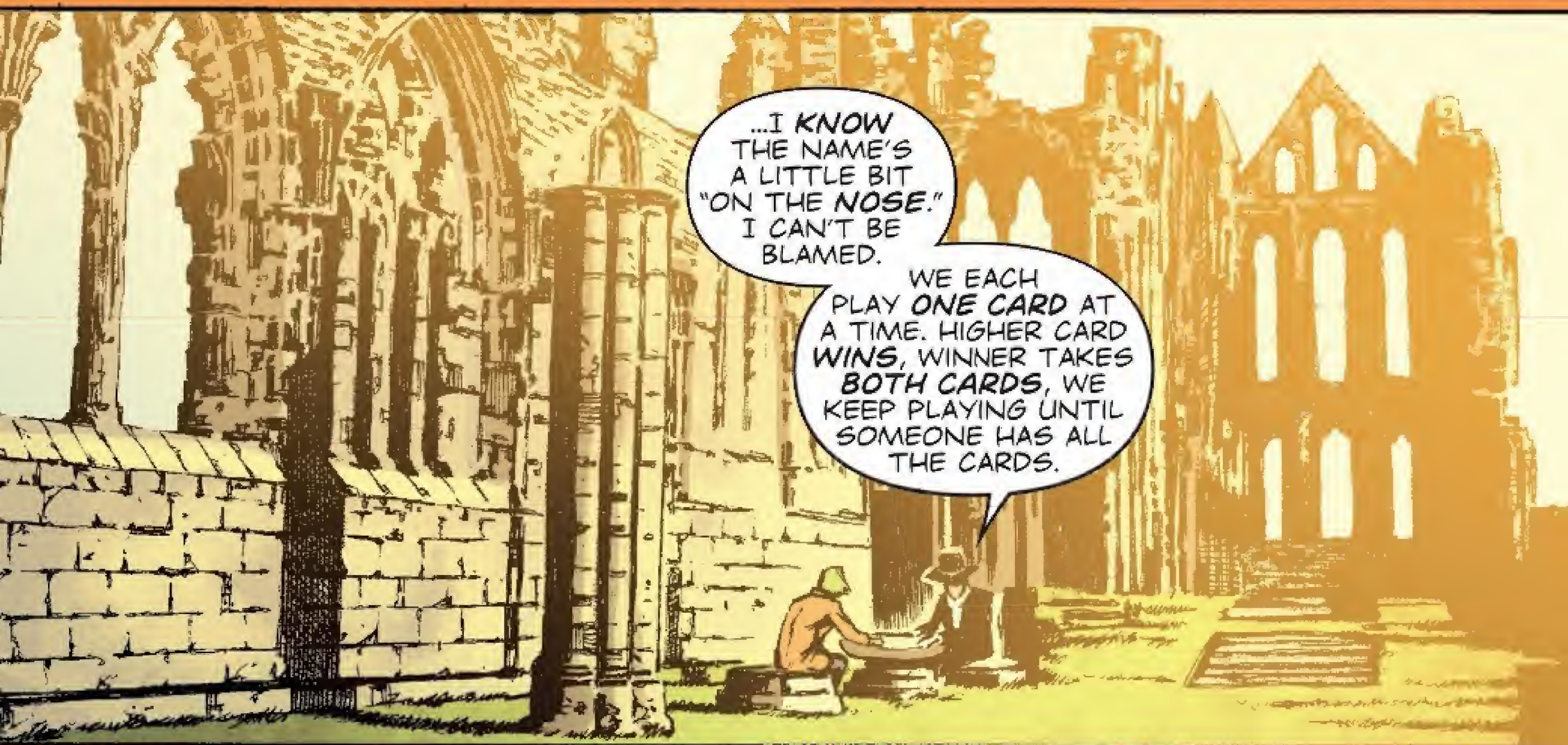
writer: Brandon Jerwa
artist: Heubert Khan Michael
colorist: Mat Lopes
letterer: Marshall Dillon
editor: Joe Rybandt



YOU NEVER
SMILE
ANYMORE,
FLOWER.

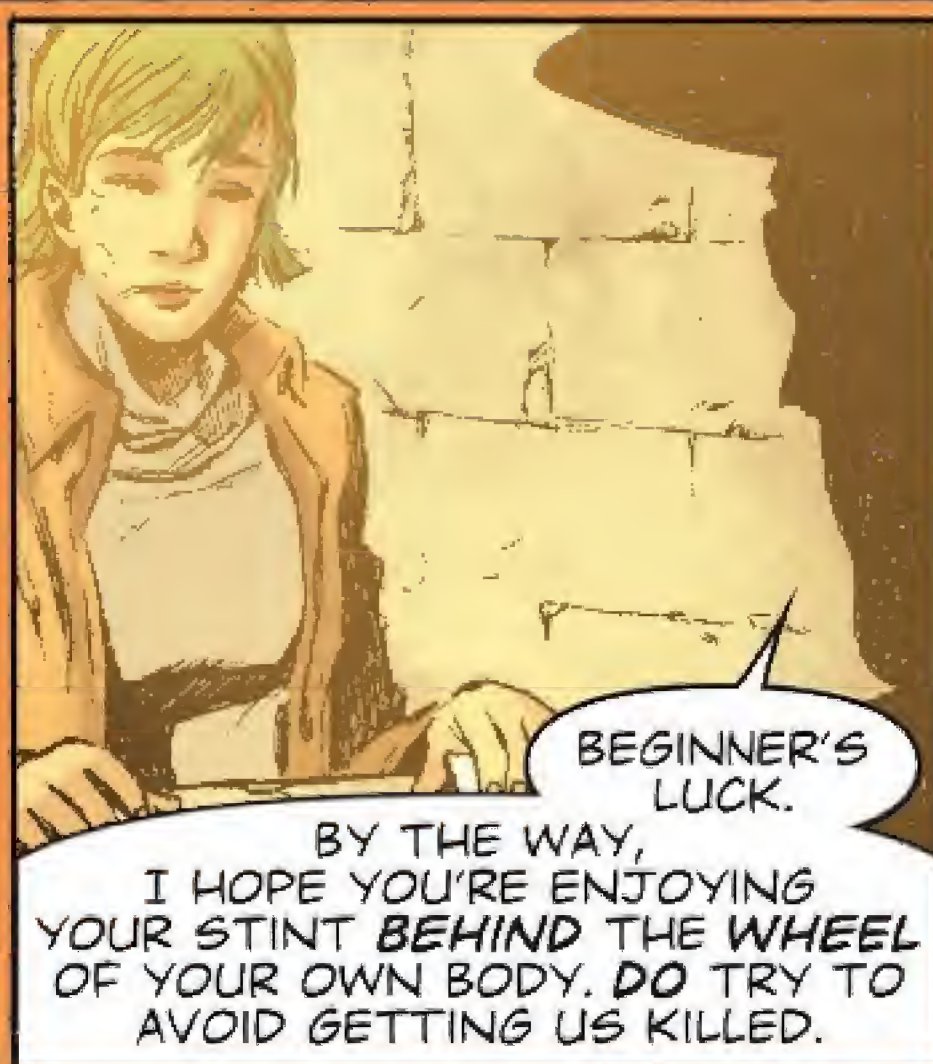
IS OUR **COMPETITION**
WEARING YOU DOWN?
I'M **TRYING** TO MAKE
IT **INTERESTING**
FOR YOU.

I DON'T THINK WE'VE
PLAYED THIS GAME
YET. IT'S CALLED
"WAR"...



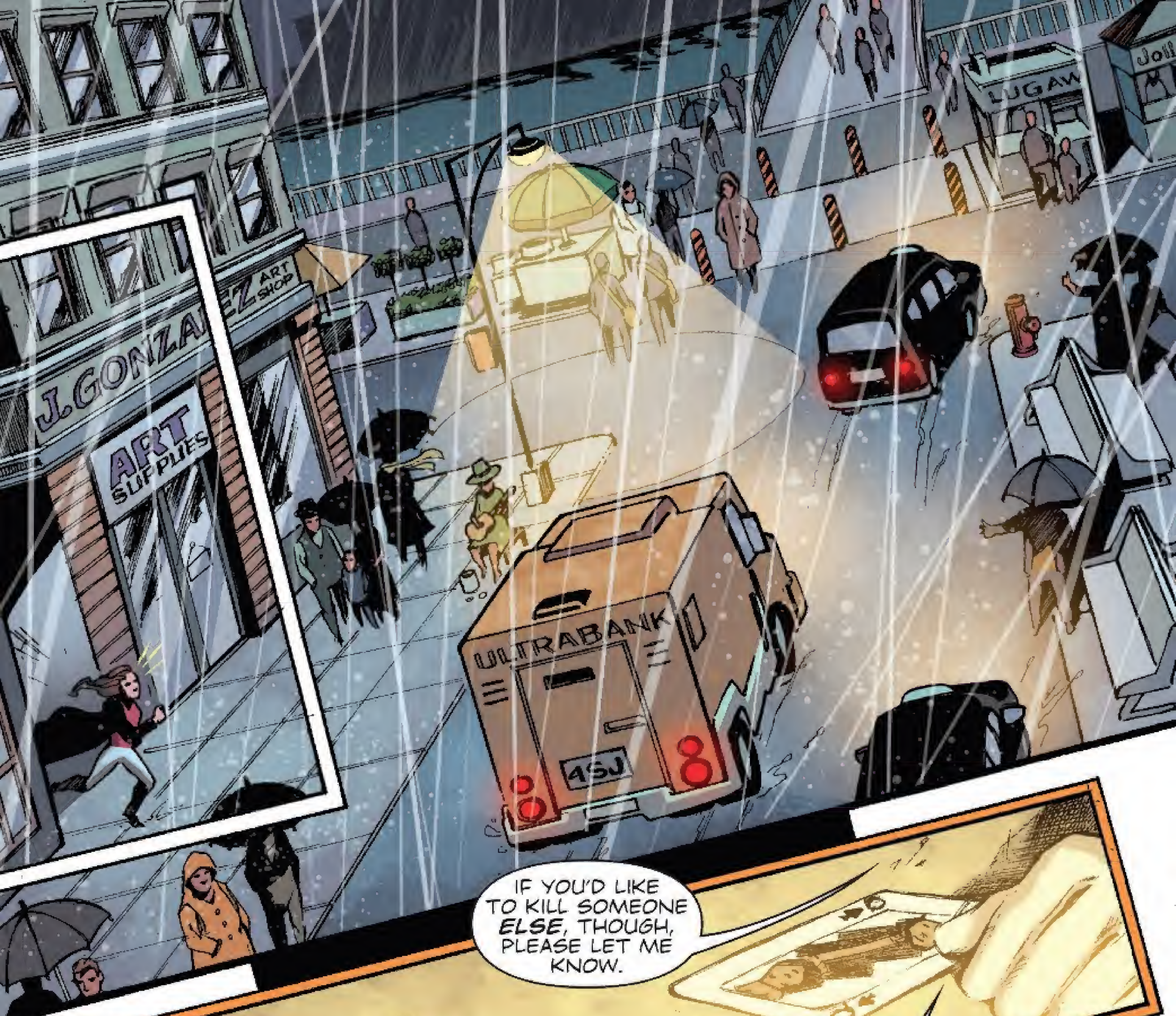
...I **KNOW**
THE NAME'S
A LITTLE BIT
"ON THE NOSE."
I CAN'T BE
BLAMED.

WE EACH
PLAY **ONE CARD** AT
A TIME. HIGHER CARD
WINS, WINNER TAKES
BOTH CARDS, WE
KEEP PLAYING UNTIL
SOMEONE HAS ALL
THE CARDS.



BEGINNER'S
LUCK.

BY THE WAY,
I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING
YOUR STINT **BEHIND THE WHEEL**
OF YOUR OWN BODY. DO TRY TO
AVOID GETTING US KILLED.



IF YOU'D LIKE
TO KILL SOMEONE
ELSE, THOUGH,
PLEASE LET ME
KNOW.

I'D LOVE
TO WATCH
YOU GET
YOUR HANDS
DIRTY.

SOFIA!

OH,
HELL--

HE'S
GOT A
GUN!

YOU'RE
RUNNING OUT
OF OPTIONS!
STOP NOW!

SIGH

CARDINAL'S
GOING TO PUT
MY BITS IN A
JAR ON HIS
DESK...





MY STACK IS GROWING, FLOWER.

IT'S GETTING BIGGER BY THE MINUTE, AND I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR IT.

WHY DON'T YOU CURL UP AND TAKE A REST? I'LL DRIVE FOR A WHILE.



--CAN'T SEE. HOLD STILL.



I SAID, HOLD STILL--

GLEGGGG!!



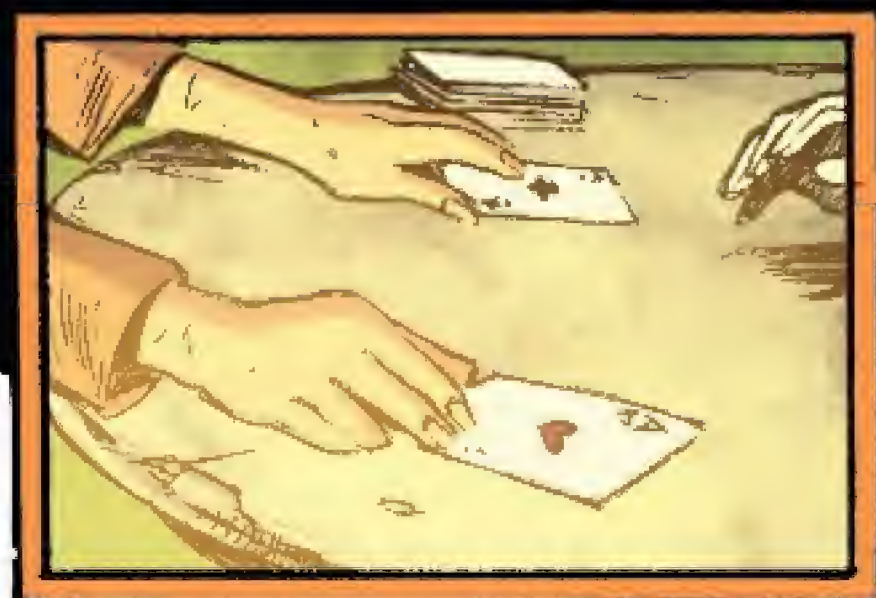
PETE...
AW, PETE...

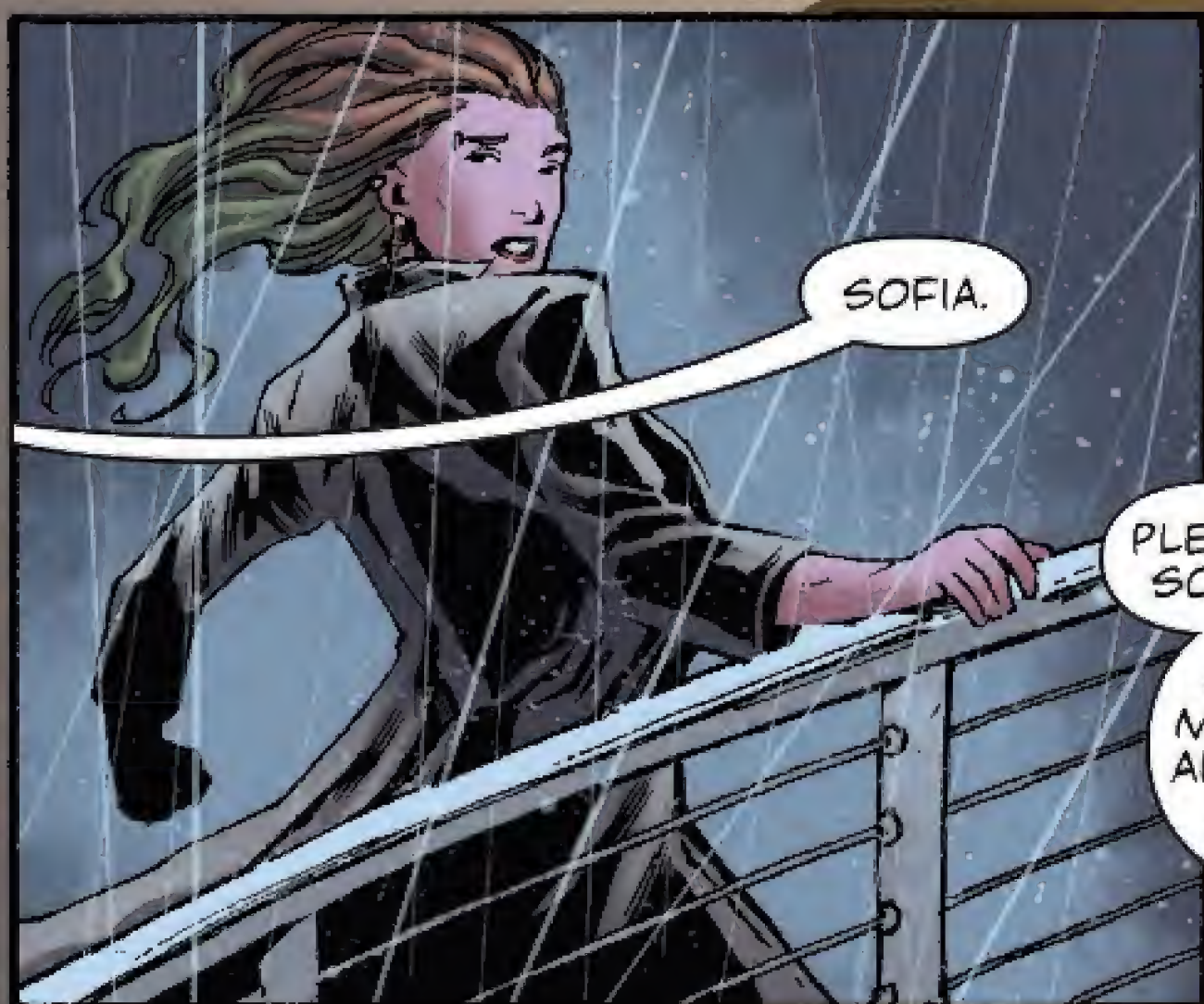
YOU'RE DOG FOOD, SKANK!



THE HELL--?!

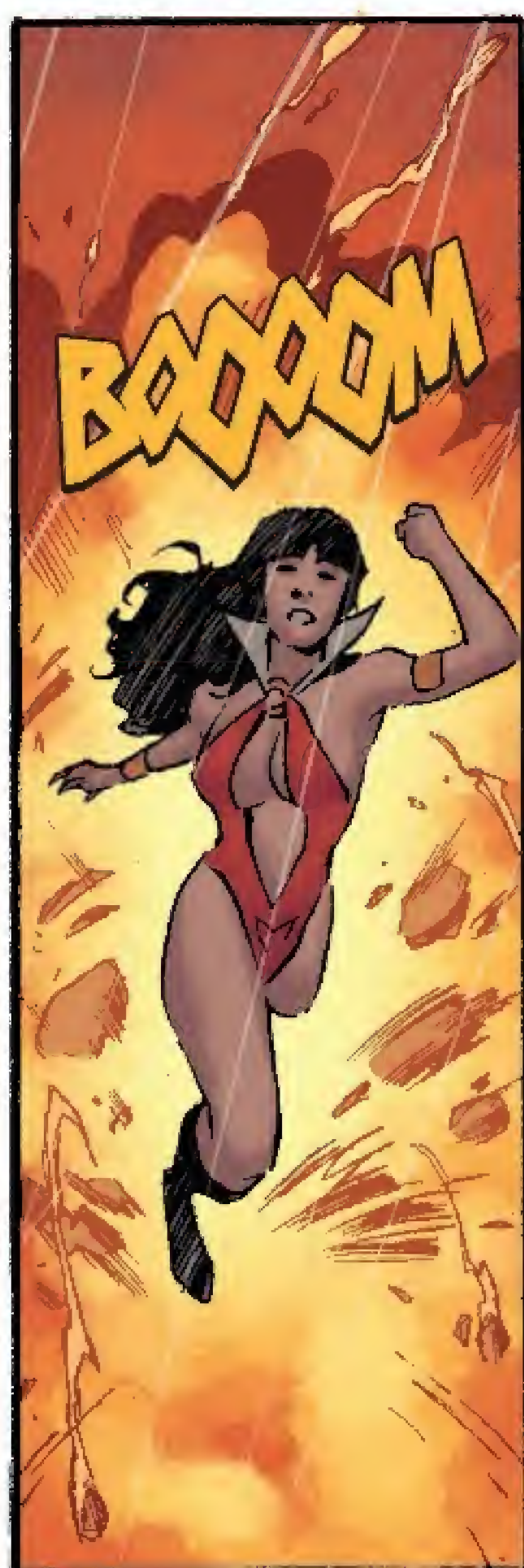
KA
KA
KA





PLEASE, SOFIA.
LET ME
HELP YOU. LET
ME TRY TO UNDO
ALL THE DAMAGE
I'VE INFLICTED
UPON YOU.



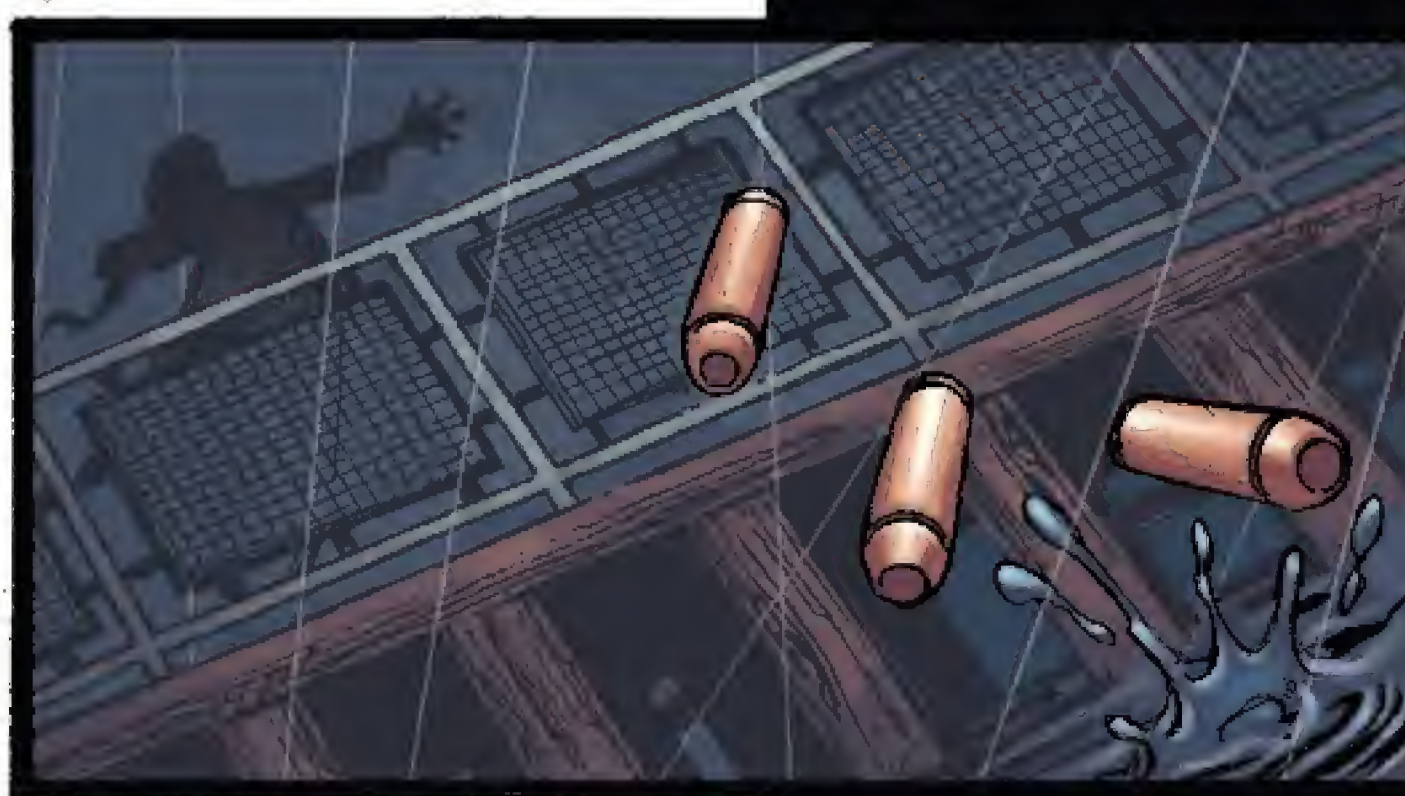


HALO-ONE
TO ALL CHOIRS:
WE HAVE BLOOD ON
THE WING. REPEAT,
BLOOD ON THE
WING!

WE ARE
ATTEMPTING TO
COLLECT AND
SANITIZE.

WUT
THWUT
THWUT
THWUT
THWUT
THWUT
THWUT
WUT





YOU'VE BEEN
IN MY HEAD FOR
ALMOST HALF A YEAR.
I TOLD MYSELF THAT
VAMPIRELLA WOULD
SAVE ME, OR I'D FIGURE
OUT HOW TO SAVE
MYSELF.

I HAD FAITH.
I TRIED TO
HOLD ON...

...BUT NOW
I'M JUST TOO
GODDAMNED
TIRED TO FIGHT
ANYMORE.

YOU WANT TO
PLAY A GAME?
FINE, OKAY. BUT
WE LEAVE IT ALL
UP TO ORDER
AND CHAOS.

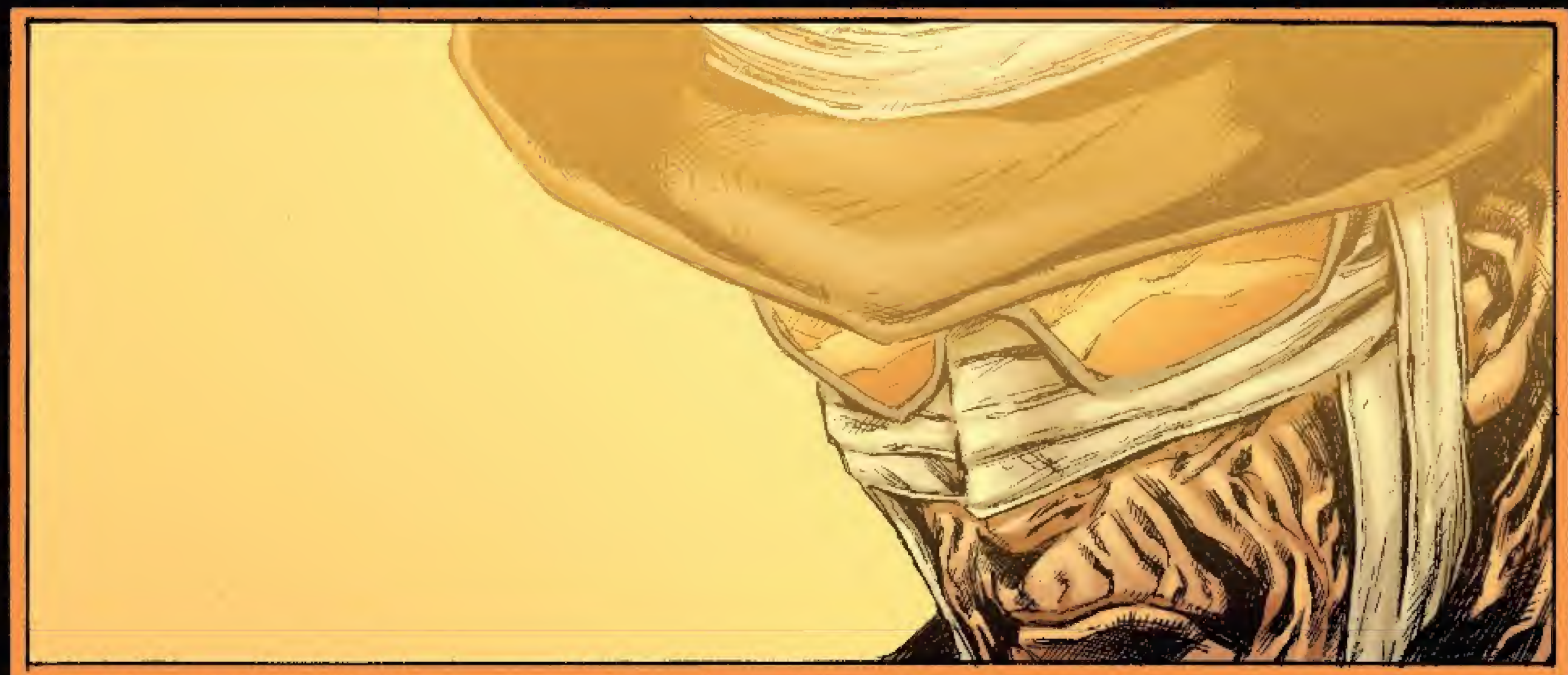
YOU'D BETTER
PRAY THAT YOUR
SOUL TURNS BLACK
AND SHRIVELS UP
INTO NOTHING
WHEN YOU DIE...

...BECAUSE
IF THERE'S A LIFE
BEYOND THIS ONE,
I'LL NEVER LET YOU
FORGET THAT I'VE
TASTED YOU,
FLOWER.

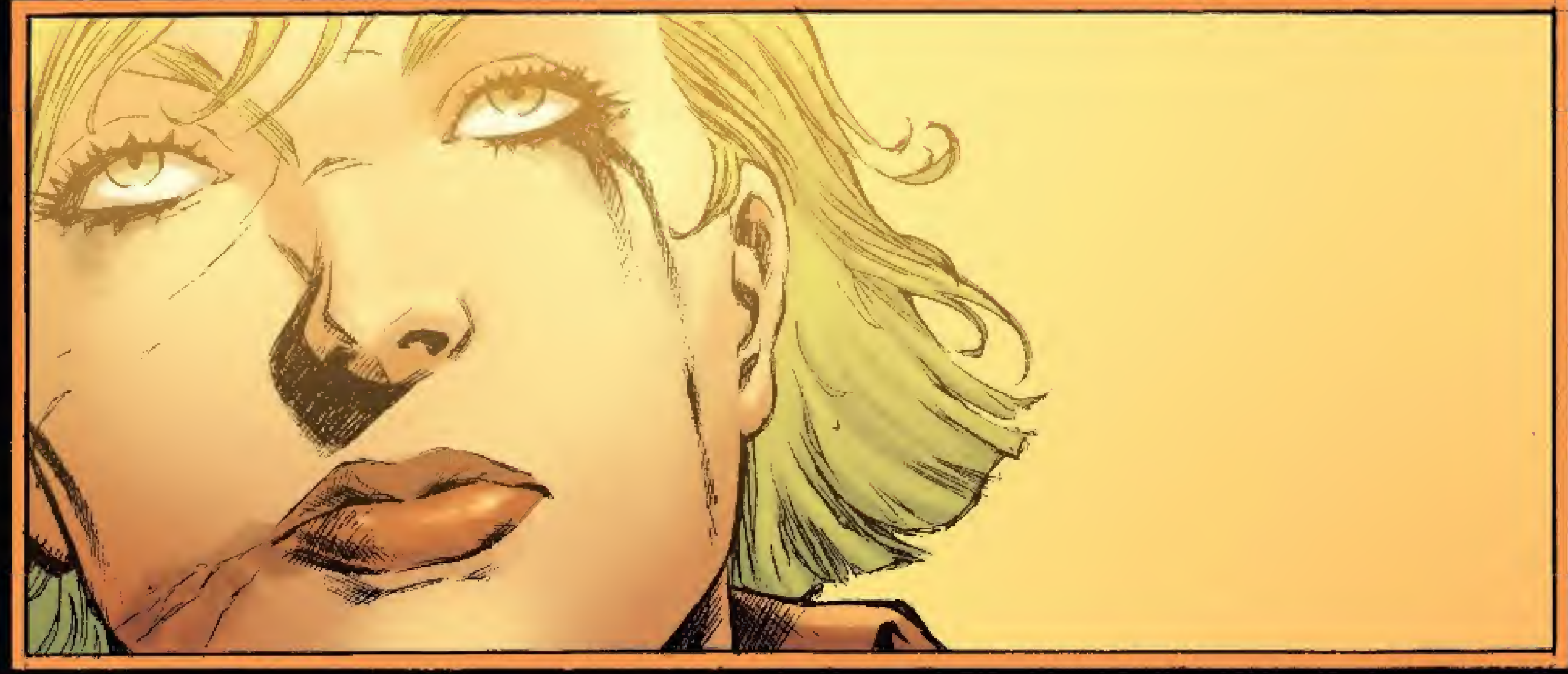
THEY
DON'T MAKE A
BULLET THAT
CAN CHANGE
THAT.

DO IT!
SHOW ME
WHAT YOU'RE
MADE OF.

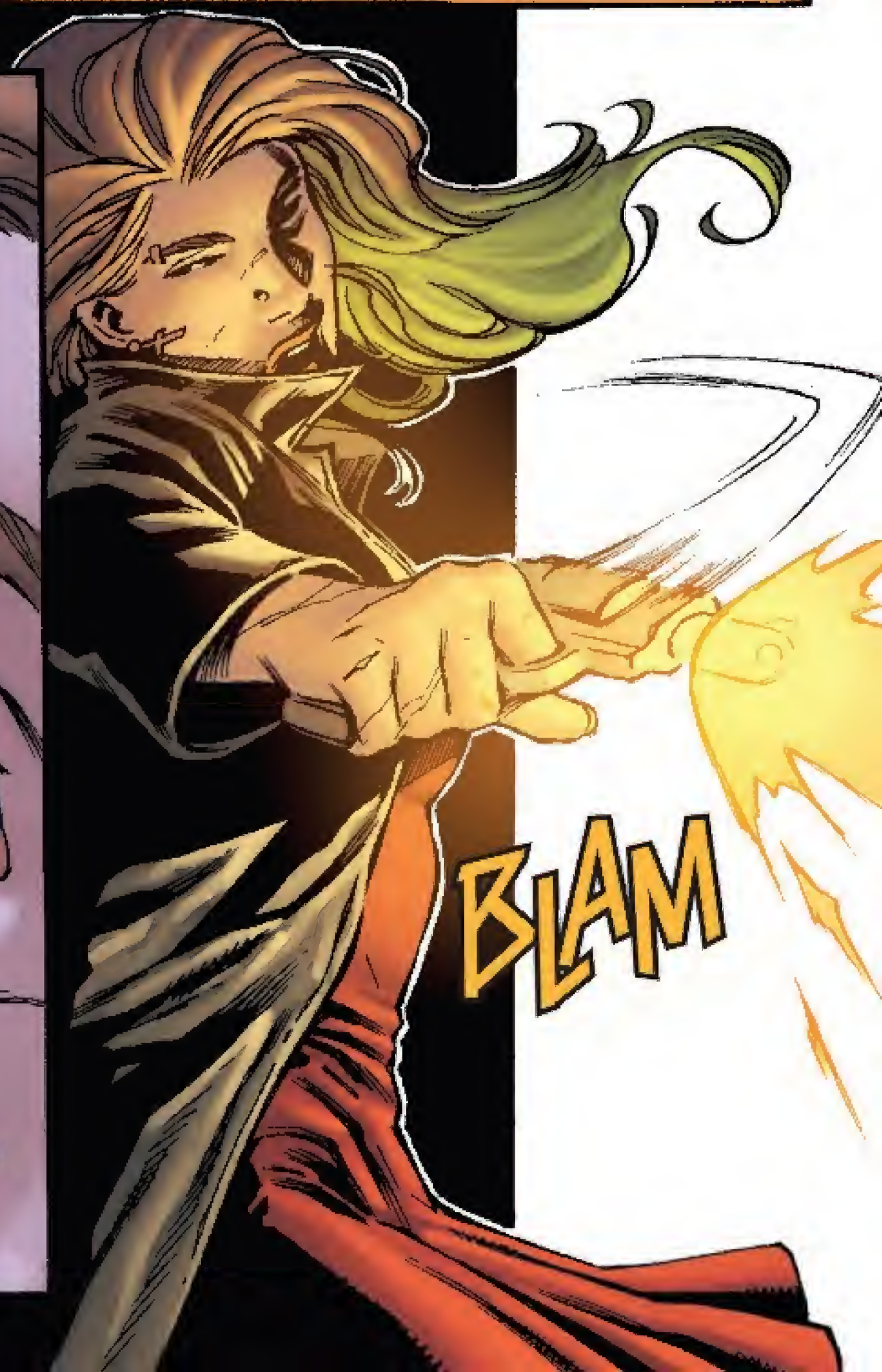
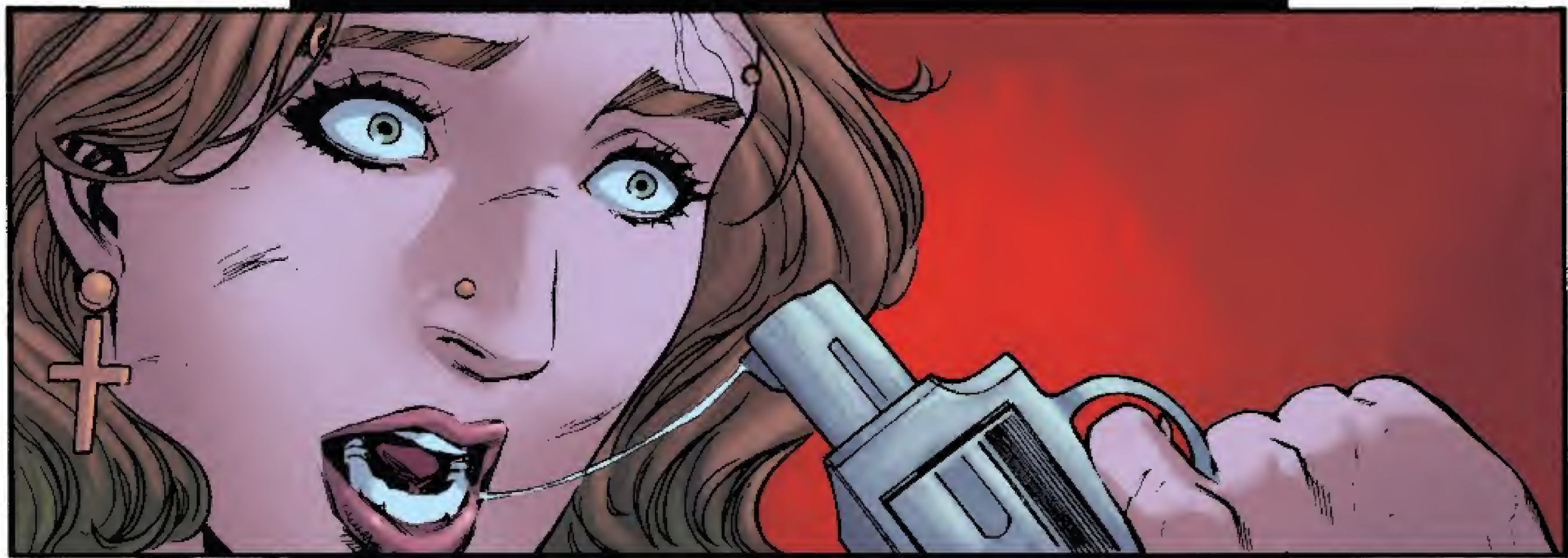
KILL KILL



KILL KILL



KILL KILL





IS THAT
HOW WE GREET
OLD FRIENDS,
CHILD?

I SUPPOSE
I SHOULD BE
THANKFUL THAT
YOU MISSED
THE MARK.



LE FANU...

I WON'T INSULT
YOUR INTELLIGENCE
BY PRETENDING
THAT I CAME HERE
TO SEE YOU.

I HAVE
A MESSAGE
FOR VON
KREIST.

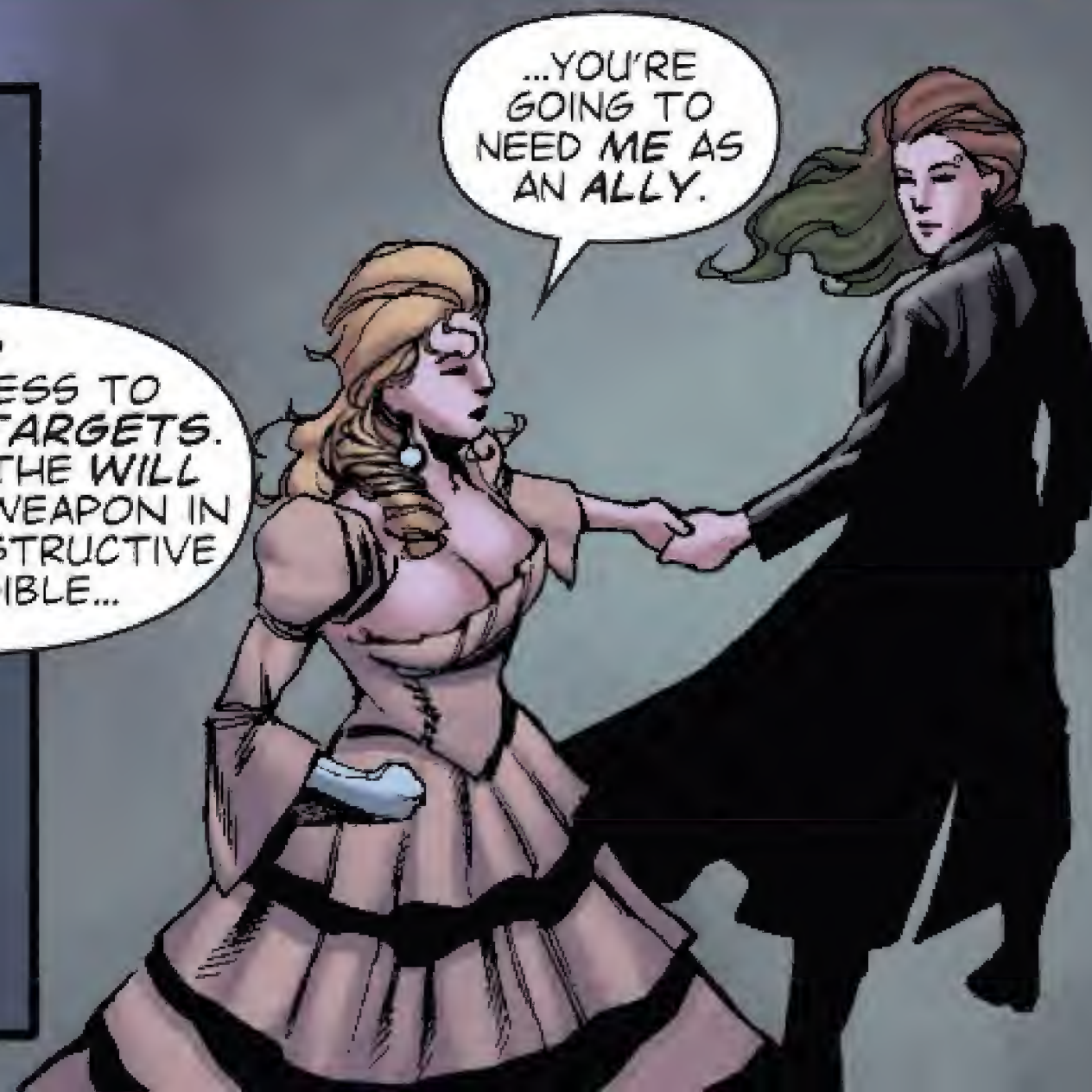


SSSHHHH.



THERE'S
A WAR COMING,
VON KREIST. YOU
HAVE A **POWERFUL**
WEAPON AT YOUR
DISPOSAL...

...AND
I HAVE ACCESS TO
HIGH-VALUE TARGETS.
IF YOU HAVE THE WILL
TO **USE** THIS WEAPON IN
THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE
WAY POSSIBLE...



...YOU'RE
GOING TO
NEED ME AS
AN ALLY.



SOFIA!
IF YOU CAN
HEAR ME, SHOW
YOURSELF!



NO READING.
I CAN'T PICK
HER OUT OF
THE CLUTTER
ON THE
DOCK!

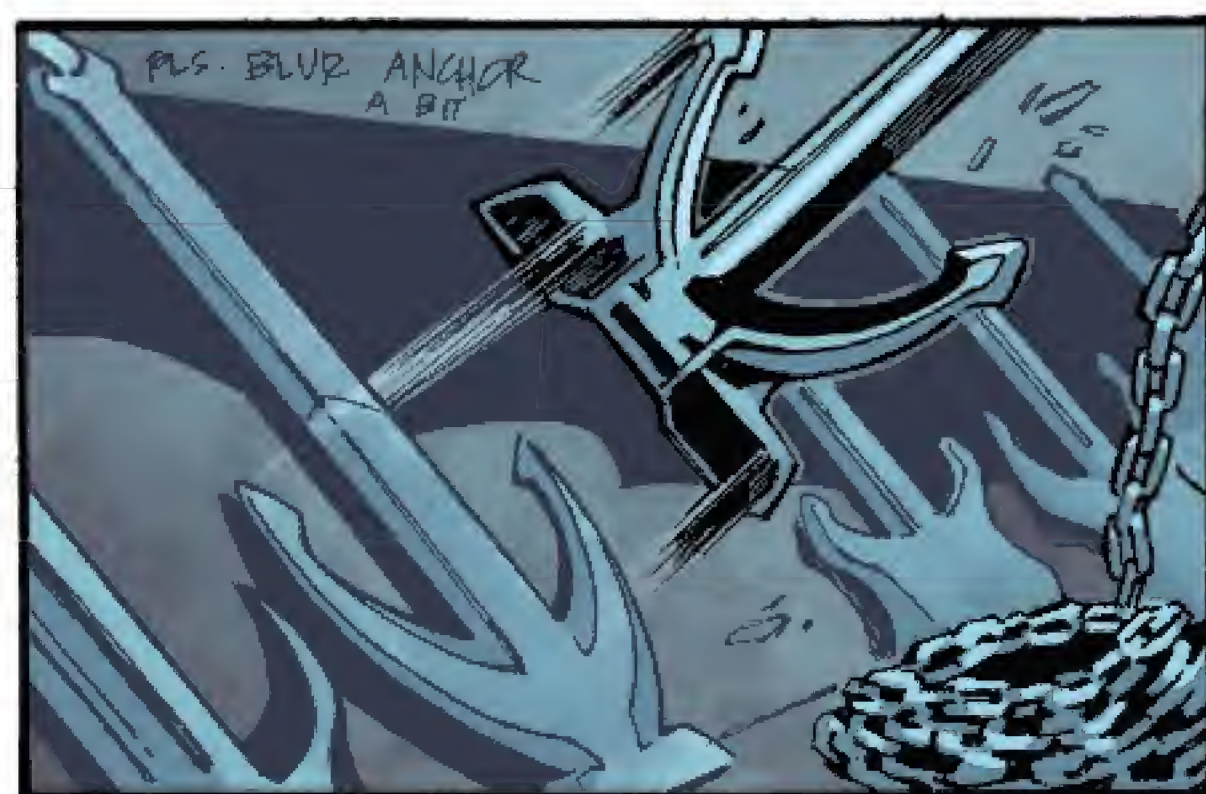
WE NEED
A GROUND
FORCE TO DRIVE
HER INTO A
CORNER.

HALO-ONE
TO SERAPHIM-THREE:
THE BLOOD STILL RUNS,
AND MAY BE SEEPING INTO
THE SOIL. RECOMMEND
GROUND INTERCEPTION--

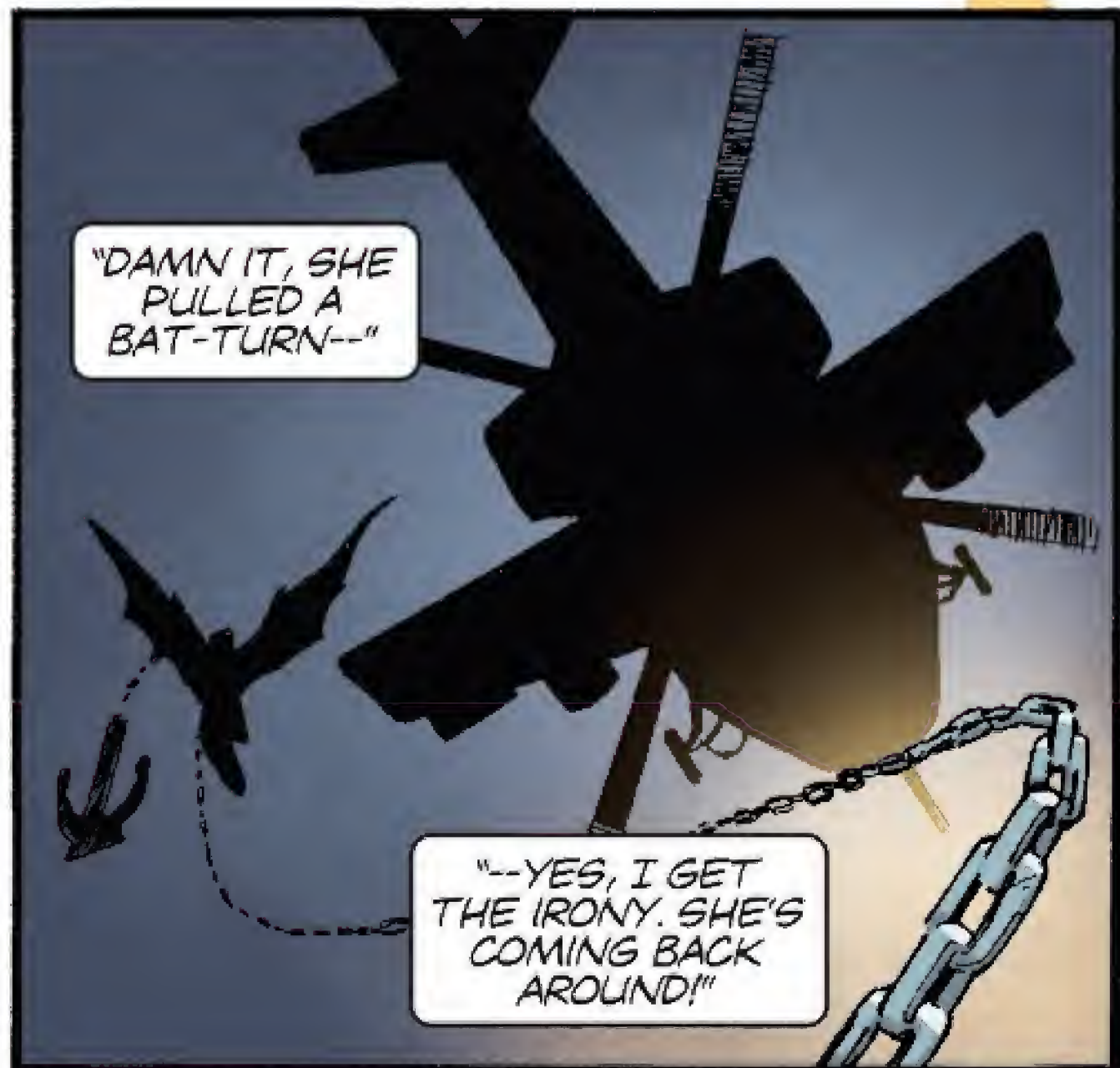


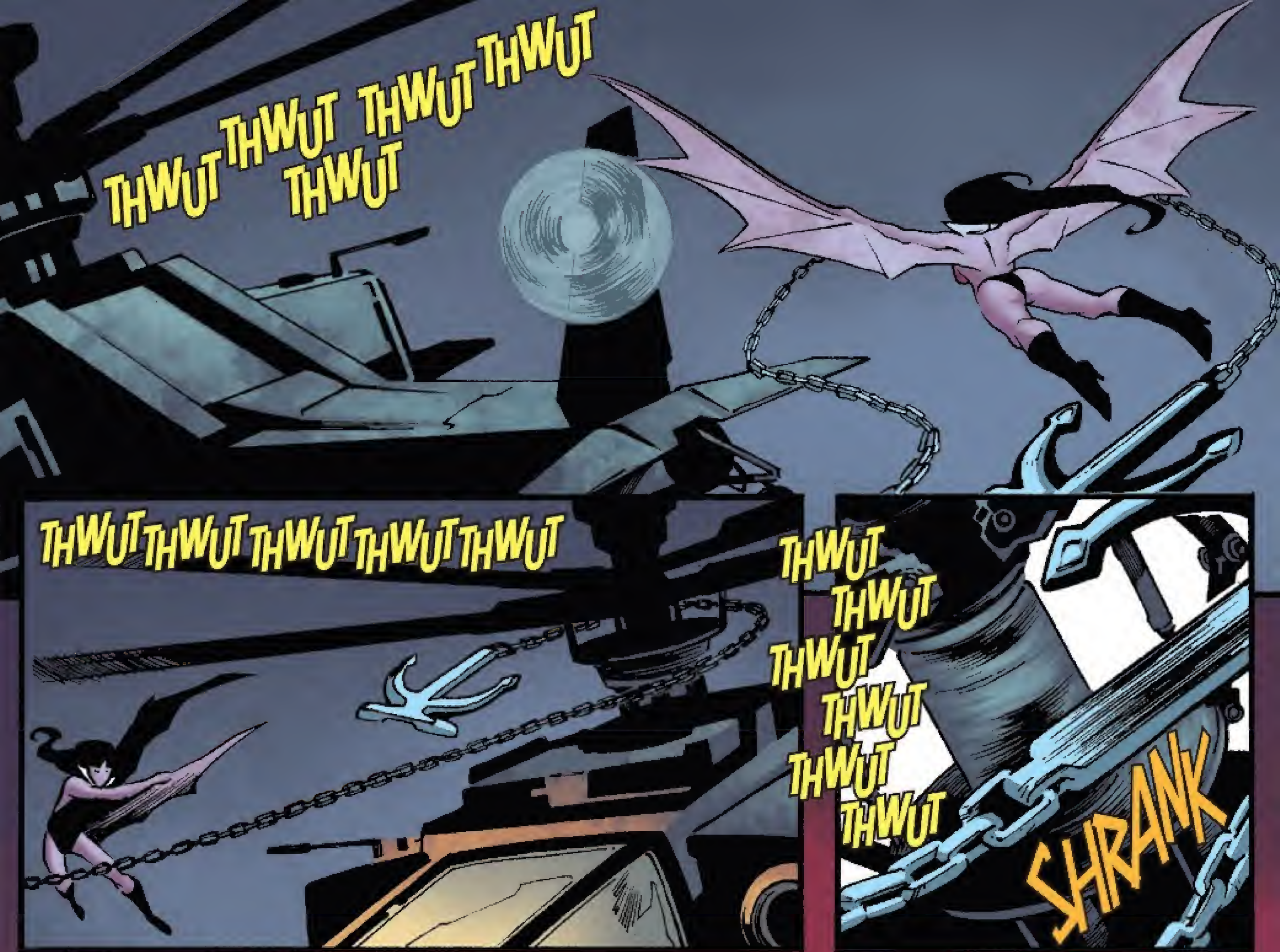
THIS IS SERAPHIM-THREE. GROUND
FORCE IS NOT AN OPTION AT PRESENT,
BUT WE ARE EN ROUTE.

STAY ON THE
TARGET, AND DRIVE
HER OUT ONTO OPEN
WATER IF YOU CAN.
I WILL ADVISE.



PLS. BLUR ANCHOR
A BIT







LORD WE PRAY--
SERAPHIM-THREE HALO-ONE IS GOING DOWN!

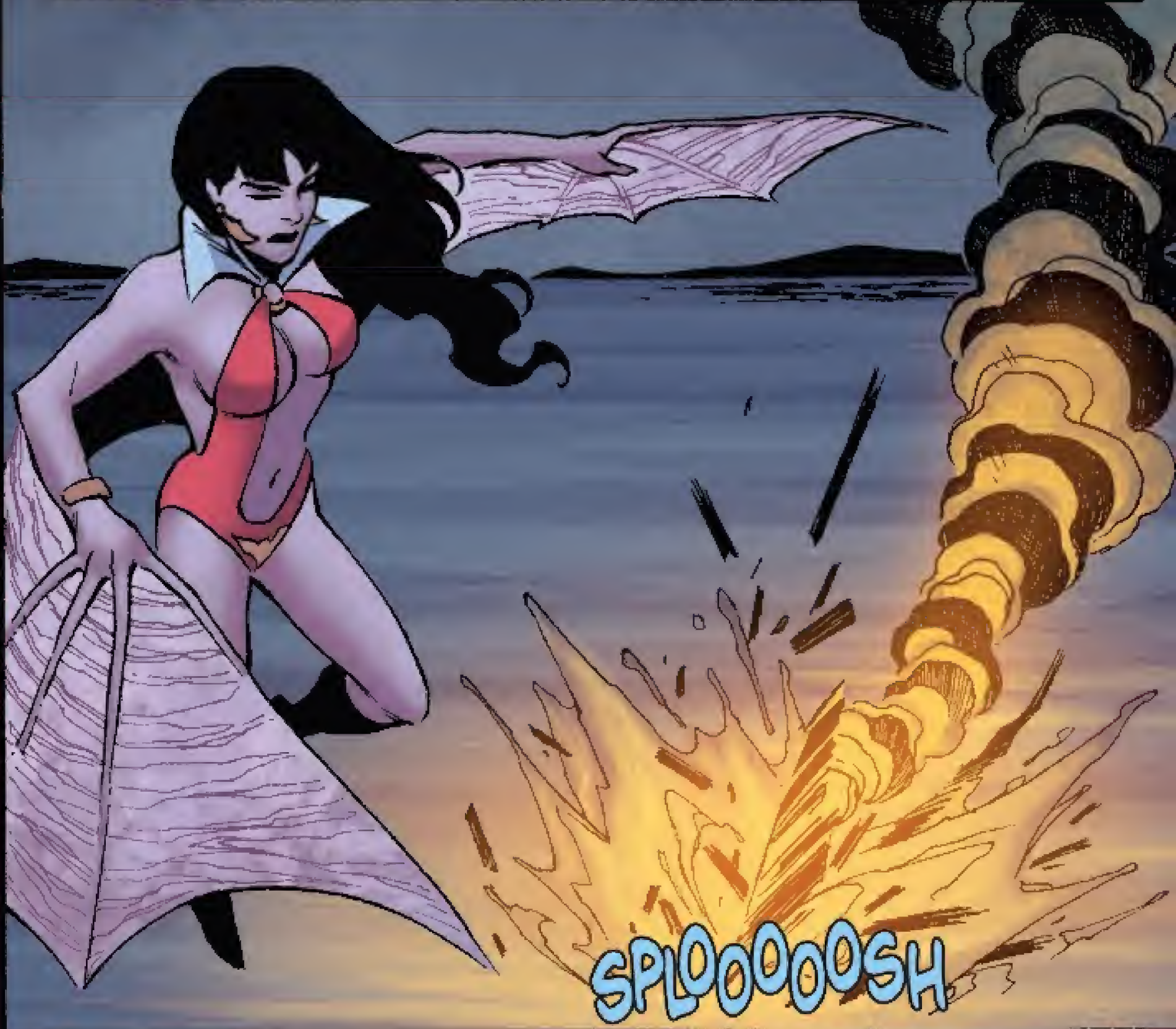
MAYDAY
MAAAAYYY~



COMPLETE AND UTTER FAILURE.

WHO HAS CONFIRMATION--?!

CONFIRMING HALO-ONE IS GOING IN THE WATER, CARDINAL. SHOULD WE PREP FOR RESCUE?



SPLOOOOSH



VAMPIRELLA IS WITHIN OUR WEAPONS RANGE, AND SHE SEEMS TO BE HOLDING.

IF WE ACT NOW--

DO IT!



ZZZZZZZZZZDDDDRRRRWWWWWW

EH...?

I HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT BRINGING ONE OF HERR SCHULD'S UNTESTED PET PROJECTS INTO THE FIELD...

...BUT DESPITE THE DRAMATIC NAME, THE SANGUINCINERATOR IS PERFORMING AS INTENDED.

IT'S BOILING THE BLOOD IN VAMPIRELLA'S VEINS, COOKING HER FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

ON MY AUTHORITY.

HERR SCHULD--?!

I-I'M SORRY, YOUR EMINENCE. WE'VE RECEIVED AN ARCHANGEL-LEVEL COMMAND OVERRIDE. WE HAVE TO STOP THE--

A COMMAND OVERRIDE? ON WHOSE AUTHORITY?!

YOU'VE DONE FINE WORK IN MY ABSENCE, CARDINAL BALAMI, BUT I HAVE RETURNED TO MY COMMAND POST.

I ORDER YOU TO CEASE YOUR ATTACK ON VAMPIRELLA, AND BRING HER TO ME IMMEDIATELY.





GREETINGS,
THOMAS CRISWELL.
I HAVE COME TO
SPEAK WITH
YOU AGAIN, AS
PROMISED...

...BUT NOW
MY WORDS BEAR
THE WEIGHT
OF COSMIC LAW.
THE HOUR OF
INQUISITION
IS NEARING,
THOMAS.

I FIGURED AS MUCH.
I CAN'T CLAIM TO
KNOW THE SECRETS
OF TIME AND
SPACE...

...BUT I KNOW
THE CONJURESS
DOESN'T MATERIALIZE
IN YOUR LIVING
ROOM TO TELL YOU
EVERYTHING'S
RIGHT WITH THE
UNIVERSE.

A STRANGER
MIGHT MISTAKE
YOUR DOUR TONE
FOR IMPUDENCE,
BUT I HEAR THE
TRUTH YOU TELL.

IF YOU HAVE FAITH
IN VAMPIRELLA--FAITH
IN WHO SHE IS, AND
WHAT SHE STANDS
FOR--

I DO.

--THEN PUT ASIDE YOUR
FEAR AND ACCEPT
THAT THE INQUISITION
IS ESSENTIAL, IF WE
WISH TO MAINTAIN
THE GREAT
BALANCE.

AND THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN
DO TO FIX THINGS
HERE AND NOW?

THE COURSE MUST BE CORRECTED NOW, OR ALL WILL BE LOST.

DO WHAT YOU FEEL IS *RIGHT*, BUT I AM HESITANT TO BELIEVE THAT *YOUR ACTIONS ALONE* CAN TURN THE TIDE.

WHEN VAMPIRELLA IS *SUMMONED*, KNOW THAT MY DECISION IS *FINAL*. YOU CANNOT-- YOU MUST NOT-- INTERFERE.

UNDERSTOOD. YOU HAVE MY WORD.



GOOD MORNING. PLEASE SPEAK YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME FOR VOICE RECOGNITION ACCESS.

THOMAS CRISWELL.

VOICE RECOGNITION ACCESS GRANTED. HOW MAY I HELP YOU TODAY?

LOCATE ASSET NAME: VAMPIRELLA.



COME ON, VAMPIRELLA...

...IT'S JUST NEVER GOING TO BE EASY WITH YOU, IS IT?

SUBJECT: VAMPIRELLA
IN CUSTODY AND EN ROUTE
TO VATICAN

*CESTUS DEI CLEARANCE
REVOKED*

TO BE CONTINUED!

DYNAMITE
22

VAMPIRELLA®



Revaus
2012

after
Rockwell

DYNAMITE
22

VAMPIRELLA®



FABIANO

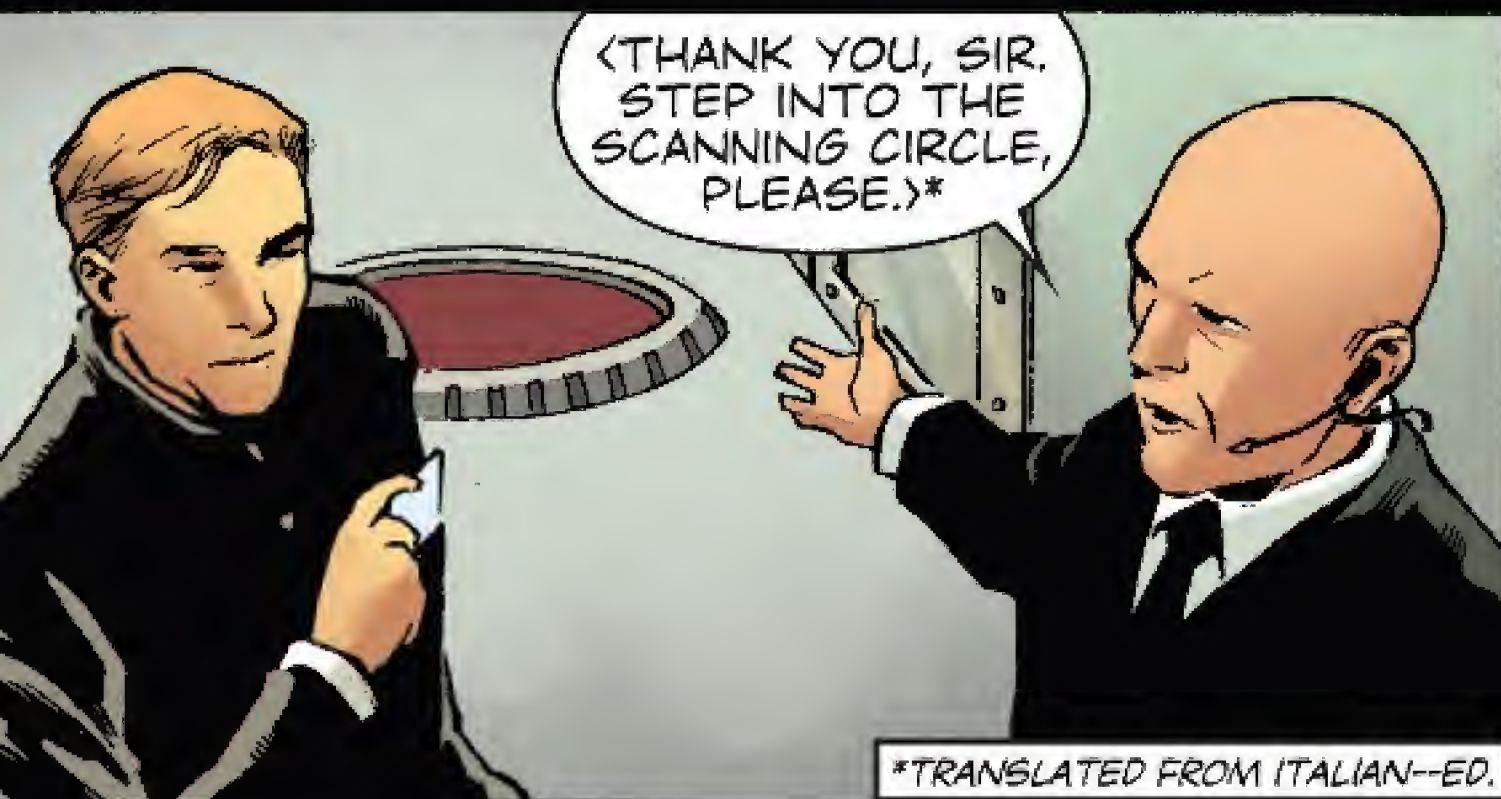
DYNAMITE
22

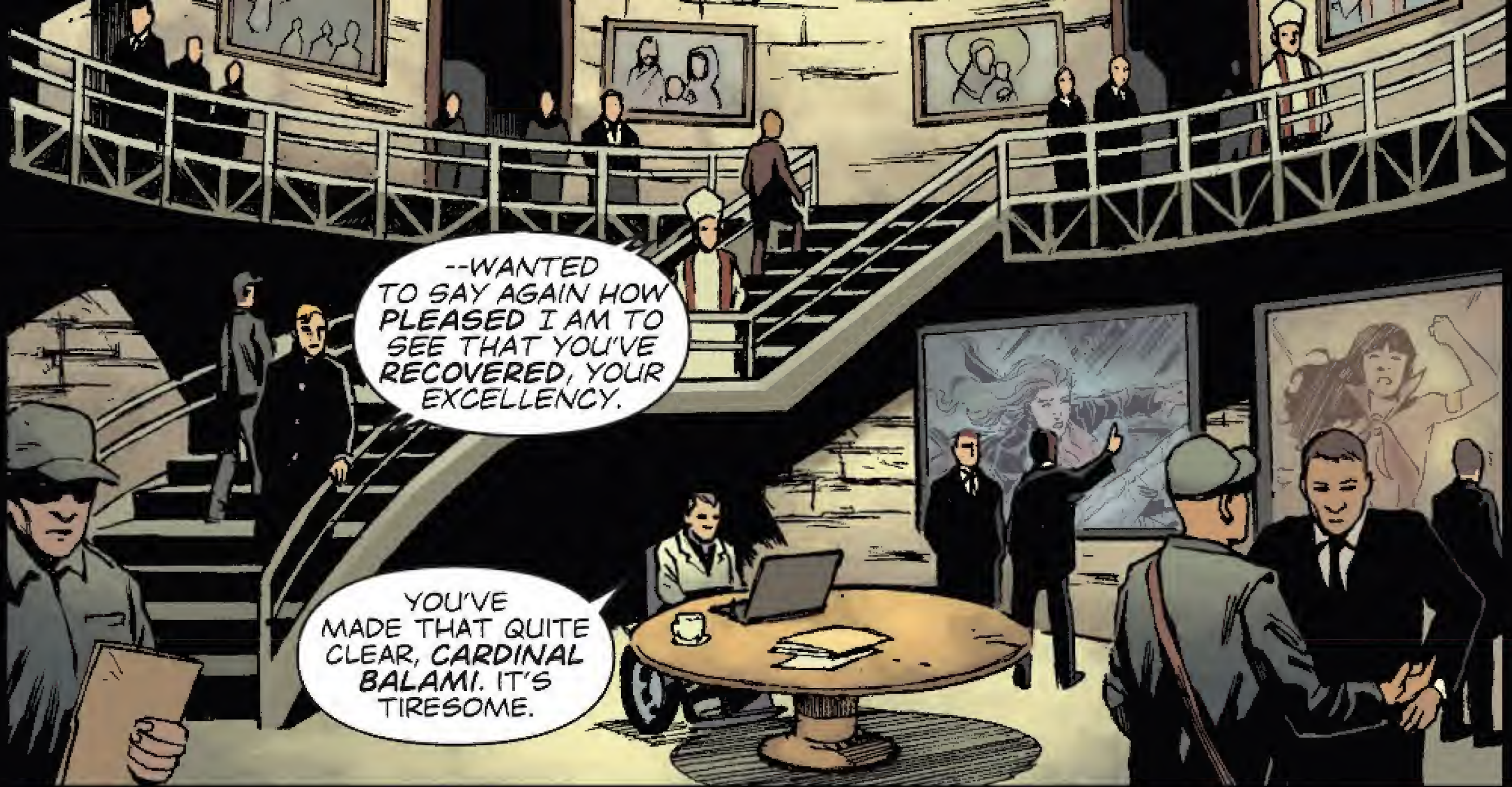
VAMPIRELLA[®]



FABIANO

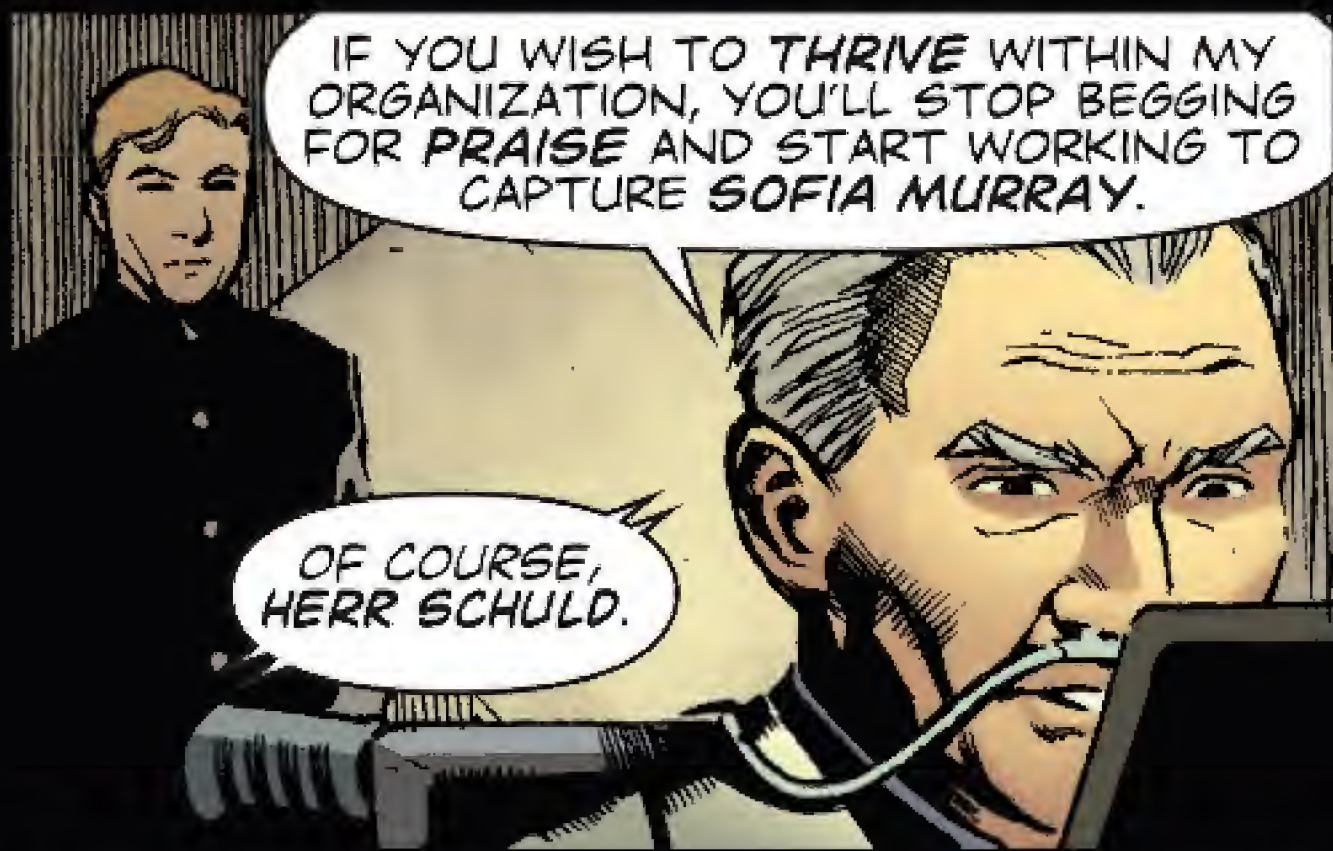
VATICAN CITY, ROME
0455 HOURS LOCAL





--WANTED TO SAY AGAIN HOW PLEASED I AM TO SEE THAT YOU'VE RECOVERED, YOUR EXCELLENCY.

YOU'VE MADE THAT QUITE CLEAR, CARDINAL BALAMI. IT'S TIRESOME.



IF YOU WISH TO **THRIVE** WITHIN MY ORGANIZATION, YOU'LL STOP BEGGING FOR **PRAISE** AND START WORKING TO CAPTURE **SOFIA MURRAY**.

OF COURSE, HERR SCHULD.



WHAT BRINGS YOU IN SO EARLY, CRISWELL?

I HAD TO SEE IF THE NEWS WAS **TRUE**. HONESTLY, I DIDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT UNTIL **JUST NOW**.



THEN WE'RE **BOTH** SURPRISED. WHEN I LEARNED I'D BEEN IN A **COMA** FOR THREE MONTHS, I EXPECTED TO HEAR THAT YOU HAD EITHER GONE INTO **HIDING**, OR STAGED A **COUP** AND TAKEN OVER.

WELL, THE DAY'S STILL YOUNG.



INDEED IT IS, THOMAS. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE MUCH TO DO...



...BUT I WANT YOU WITH ME WHEN CARDINAL BALAMI ARRIVES WITH **VAMPIRELLA**.

WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD.

"I'LL BE UPSTAIRS IN MY OFFICE."



OKAY, THEN. ROMAN HOLIDAY.

Q: WHAT
DOES
IT MEAN?

Q: THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE A
MAGIC SPELL



SIX MONTHS AGO

"SPELLBOOK?"
WHAT
SPELLBOOK?



MISTER CRISWELL, PERHAPS WE HAVEN'T MADE--

<WE'VE BEEN PERFECTLY CLEAR, DAVID.>

HERR SCHULD ORDERED US TO RETRIEVE THE GRIMOIRE THAT WAS TAKEN FROM THE MAD DEMON DESMODUS,* AND PLACE IT IN THE ARCHIVES.



*IN THE NOW-CLASSIC VAMPIRELLA ANNUAL #1--ED.



WE KNOW YOU BROUGHT IT WHEN YOU TRANSFERRED FROM LOS ANGELES, SIR. IT'S SITTING RIGHT THERE, ON YOUR--

WAIT. DO YOU HEAR THAT?



IT SOUNDS LIKE...

(LISTEN TO MY VOICE)

(HEED MY COMMANDS)

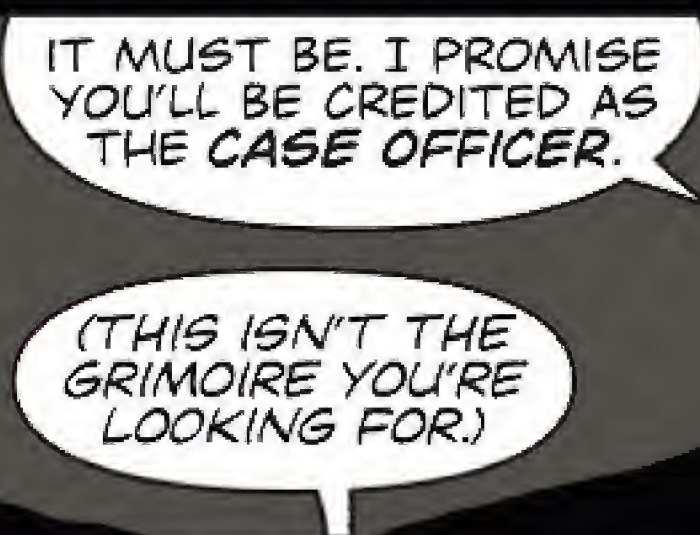
YOU LIKE IGGY POP? I'M INTO THE OLD STUFF

MYSELF. STOOGES, THAT'S A GIVEN, BUT "THE IDIOT," WHEN HE WAS WORKING WITH BOWIE?

COME ON.



IS THAT THE BOOK, SIR?



IT MUST BE. I PROMISE YOU'LL BE CREDITED AS THE CASE OFFICER.

(THIS ISN'T THE GRIMOIRE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.)



THIS ISN'T...THE GRIMOIRE... WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

(YOU WILL HEED MY COMMANDS IN THE FUTURE, WITHOUT QUESTION, WHEN I SAY...UH..."ROMAN HOLIDAY.")



KNOK-KNOK

COME IN.



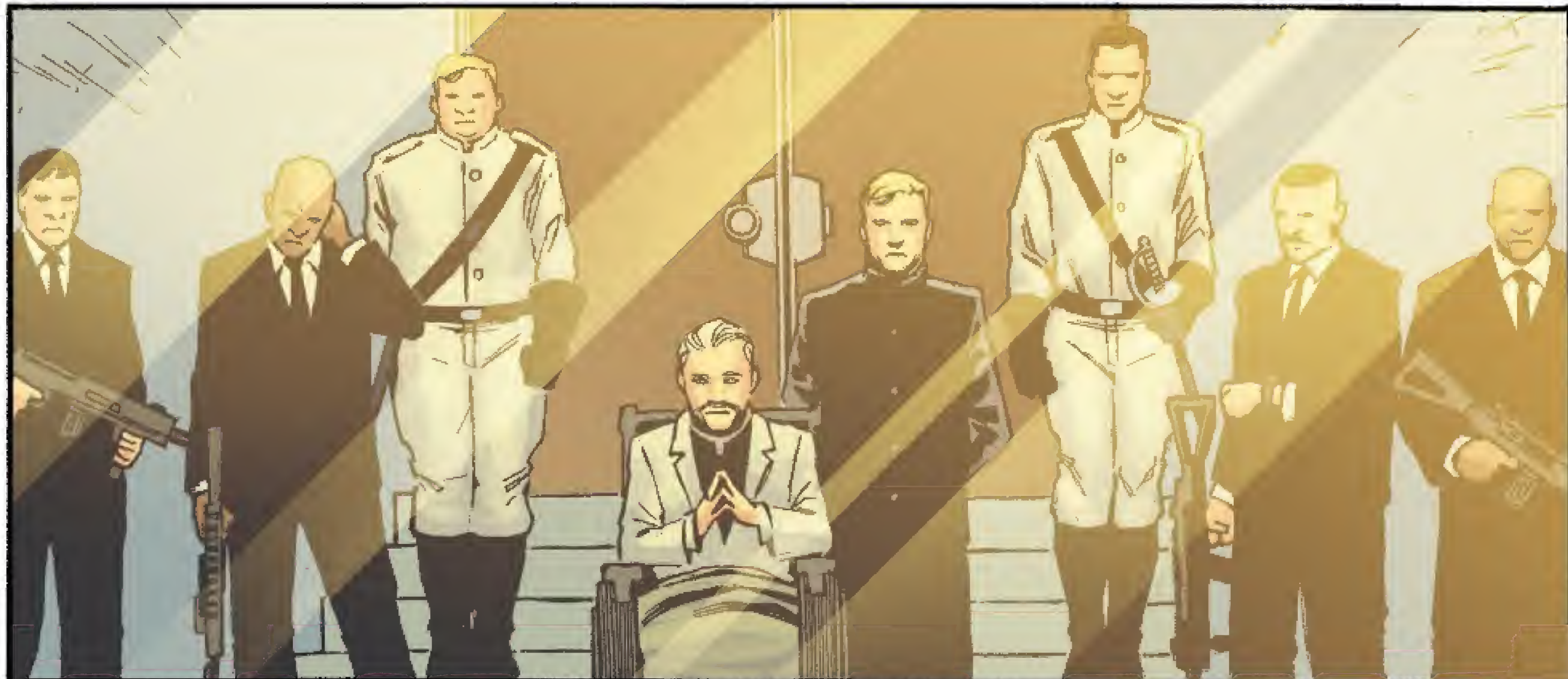
GOOD MORNING, SIR. HOW CAN WE ASSIST YOU?

0530 HOURS

CROWN
CONTROL, THIS
IS HOST-THREE
REQUESTING
CLEARANCE
TO LAND--

VAMPIRELLA: INQUISITION

Part 2: When God Closes One Door...



WHUP- WHUP- WHUP- WHUUUP- WHUUUP

writer: Brandon Jerwa
artist: Heubert Khan Michael
colorist: Mat Lopes
letterer: Marshall Dillon
editor: Joe Rybandt



I APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR OBVIOUS DISCOMFORT, BUT CARDINAL BALAMI FELT THAT **EXTREME** MEASURES WERE NECESSARY.

YOU KNOW--PERHAPS BETTER THAN **ANYONE**--THAT I DEEPLY **REGRET** MY RECENT ACTIONS. MY SUPERIORS WITHIN THE **CHURCH** MAY STRUGGLE WITH **FORGIVENESS** WHEN THEY COME FOR ME...

...AND I EXPECT THEY WILL BE COMING **VERY SOON**.

THIS NEW AWAKENING IS MY LAST CHANCE FOR **REDEMPTION**, VAMPIRELLA. YOU HAVE NO REASON TO TRUST ME, BUT I SWEAR TO YOU NOW...

...IF YOU'LL HELP ME PUT A STOP TO **VON KREIST** WHILE I STILL CONTROL **CESTUS DEI**...

...I'LL FACE YOUR PERSONAL JUDGMENT, WITHOUT **QUESTION** OR **CONDITION**, WHEN IT'S DONE.

I'LL FIND **VON KREIST**...

...BUT I'M SENDING YOU TO **HELL** FIRST. YOU CAN HAVE YOUR FAMILY REUNION **THERE**.

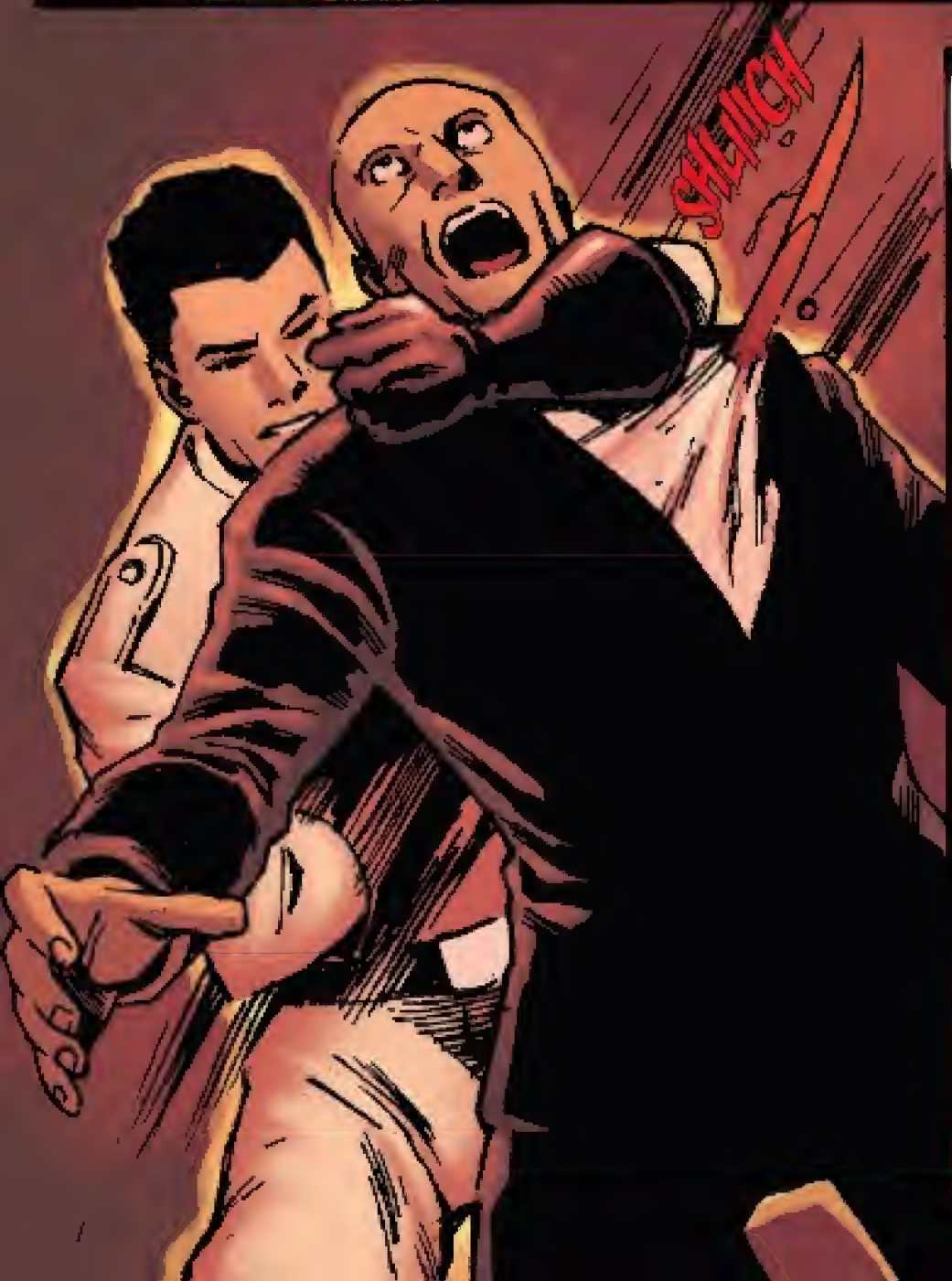
I DESERVE AS MUCH, BUT I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN'T **AFFORD** TO HAVE YOU AS AN **ENEMY**--

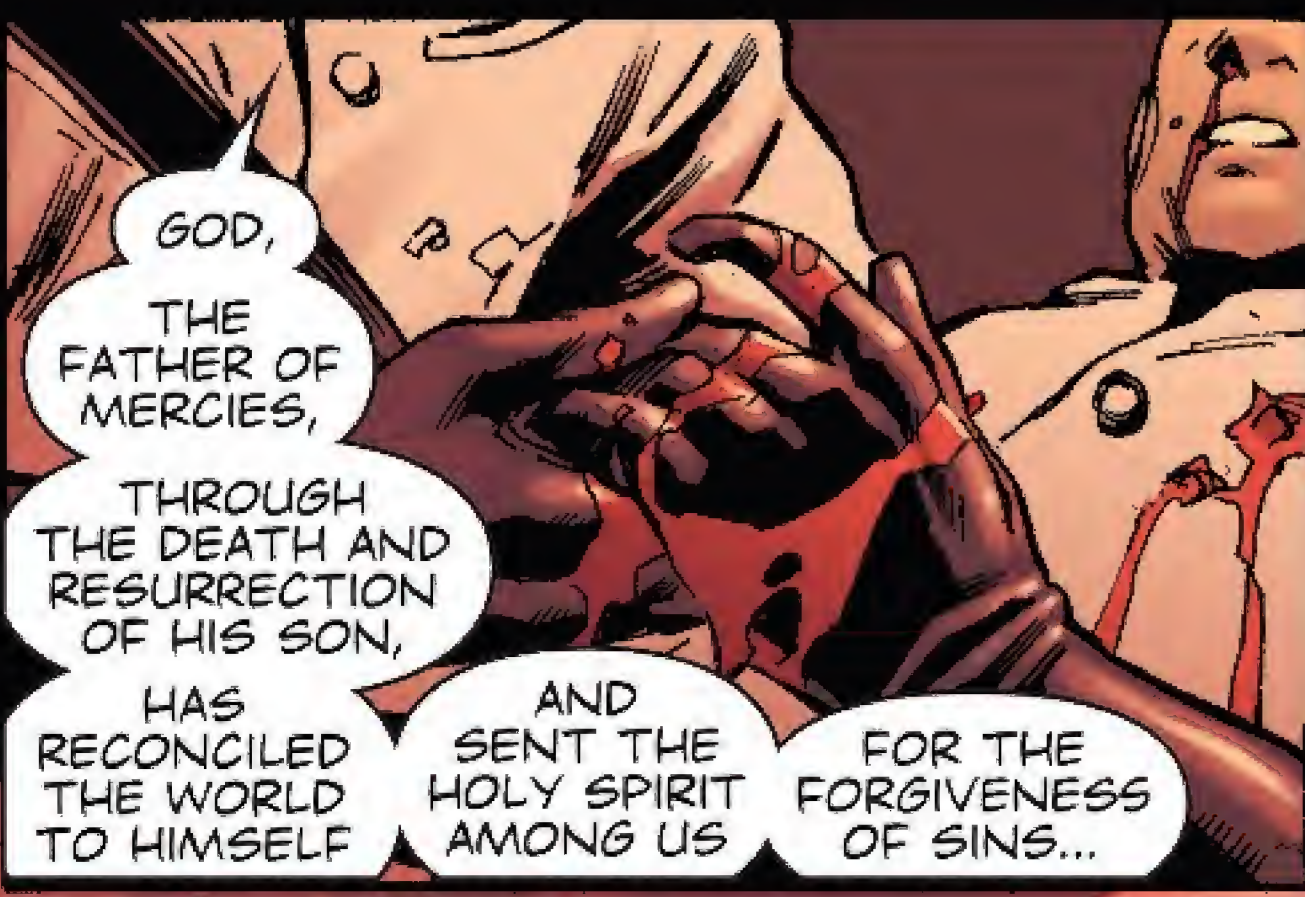
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

GOOD
BYE
VAMPIRELLA

DAMN YOU, THOMAS--

«KILL HIM!
CUT HIM
DOWN!»







I'LL
TAKE CARE
OF IT.

BE CAREFUL,
GREGORIO.



I'M SORRY,
DAVID.

YOU CAN
TELL HIM AGAIN
WHEN YOU'RE
REUNITED IN
HELL...



...AND YOU
CAN DELIVER
THIS PERVERSE
BEAST BACK TO
LUCIFER WHILE
YOU'RE THERE.

HNNNN



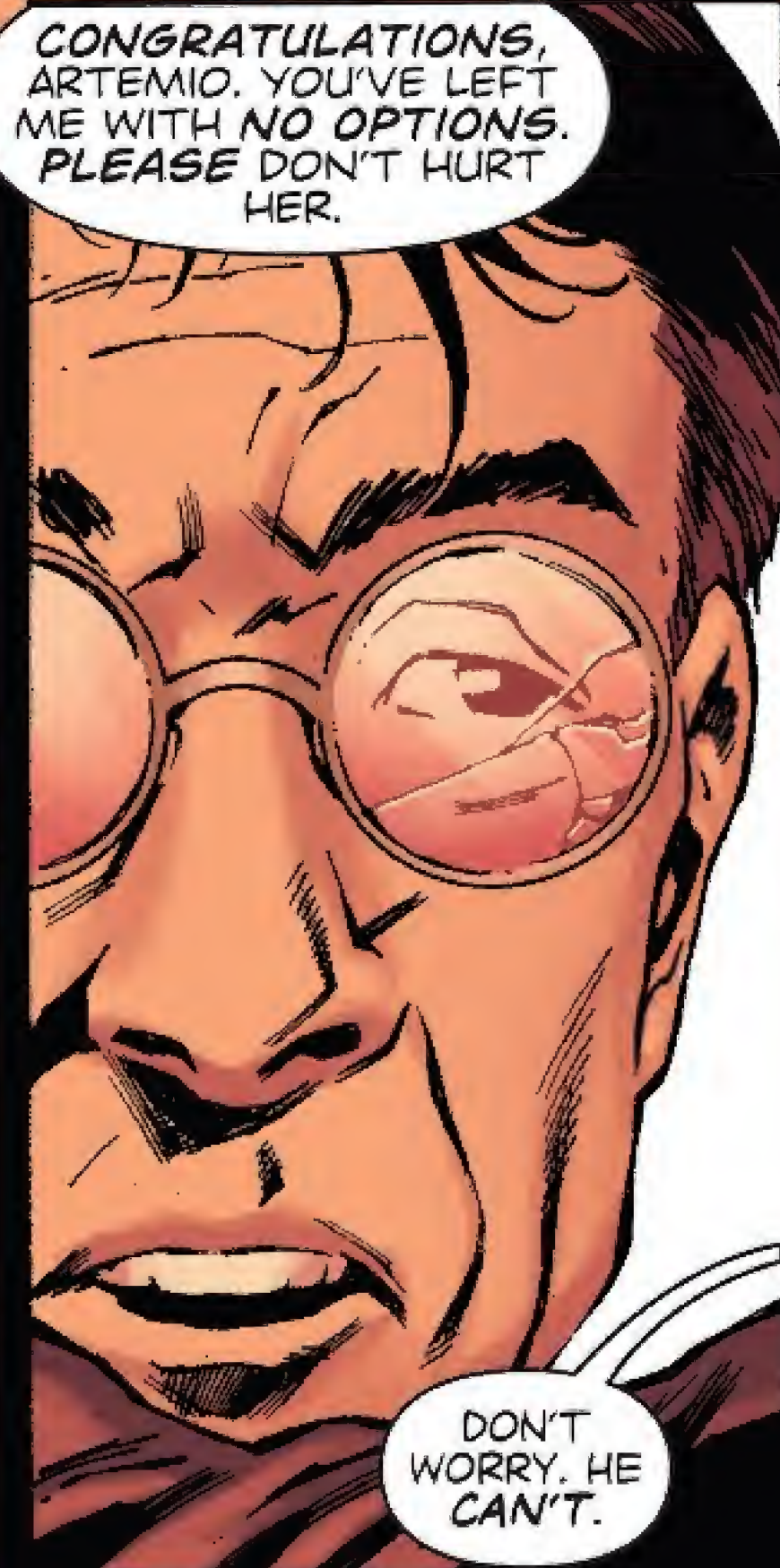
SHE'S WEAK. I CAN KILL
HER WITH ONE ROUND,
TWO AT THE MOST.

YOU COULD WALK
OUT OF HERE ALIVE, BUT
YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO
LEAVE HER BEHIND. WE
BOTH KNOW THAT.



YEAH.
I GUESS
WE DO.

CONGRATULATIONS,
ARTEMIO. YOU'VE LEFT
ME WITH NO OPTIONS.
PLEASE DON'T HURT
HER.



DON'T
WORRY. HE
CAN'T.



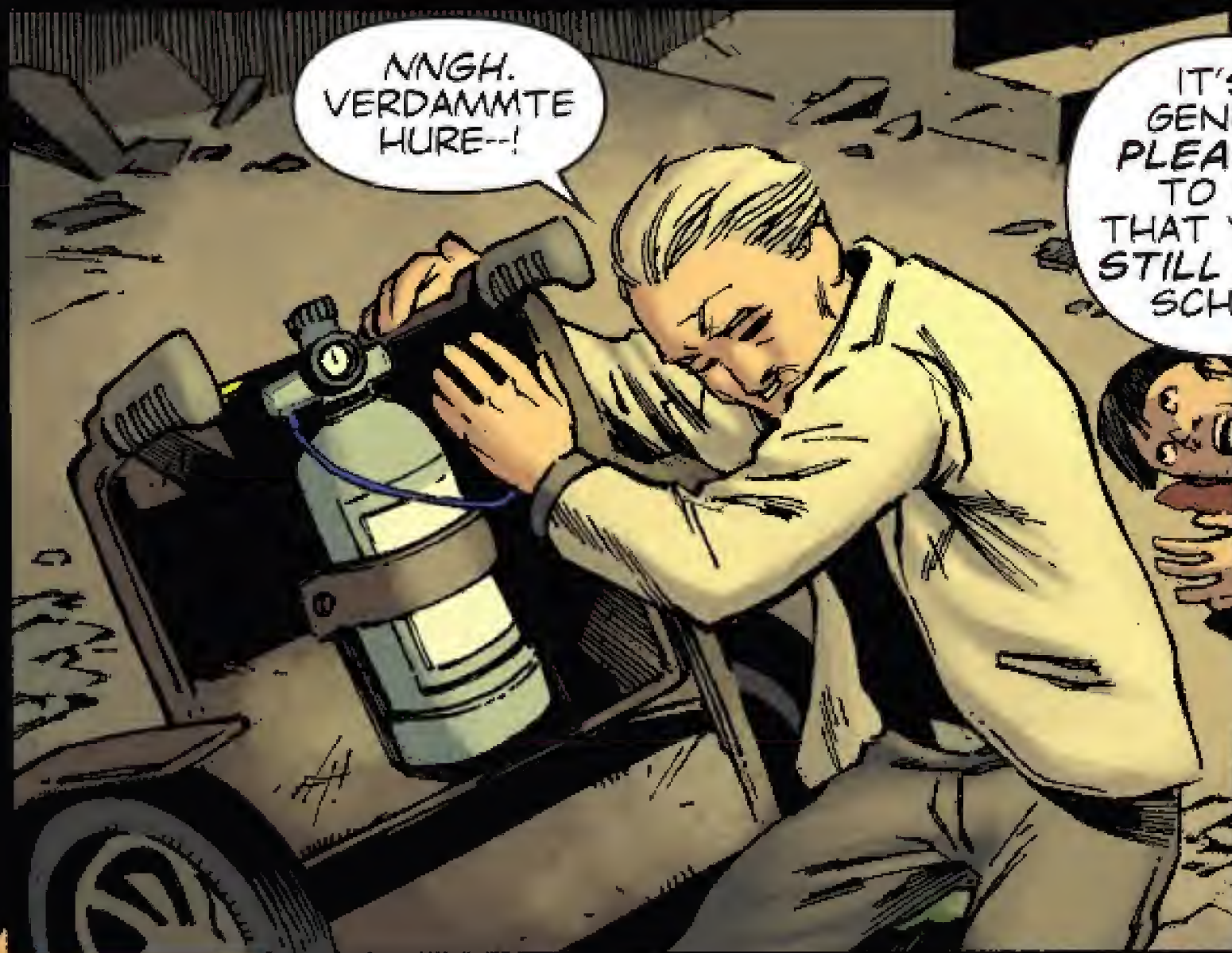


TAKE A MINUTE
TO GET YOUR
STRENGTH BACK.
I'M STILL NOT SURE
WHAT THE **ACTUAL**
ESCAPE PLAN IS.

I HAVE SO
MUCH TO TELL YOU.
SO MANY THINGS
I NEED TO--

--I REALIZED SOMETHING
RECENTLY. YOU
AND ME, WE'RE--

SORRY,
CAN YOU JUST...
SCOOT...
THAT WAY?



NNGH.
VERDAMMTE
HURE--!

IT'S A
GENUINE
PLEASURE
TO SEE
THAT YOU'RE
STILL ALIVE,
SCHULD.



--EH?

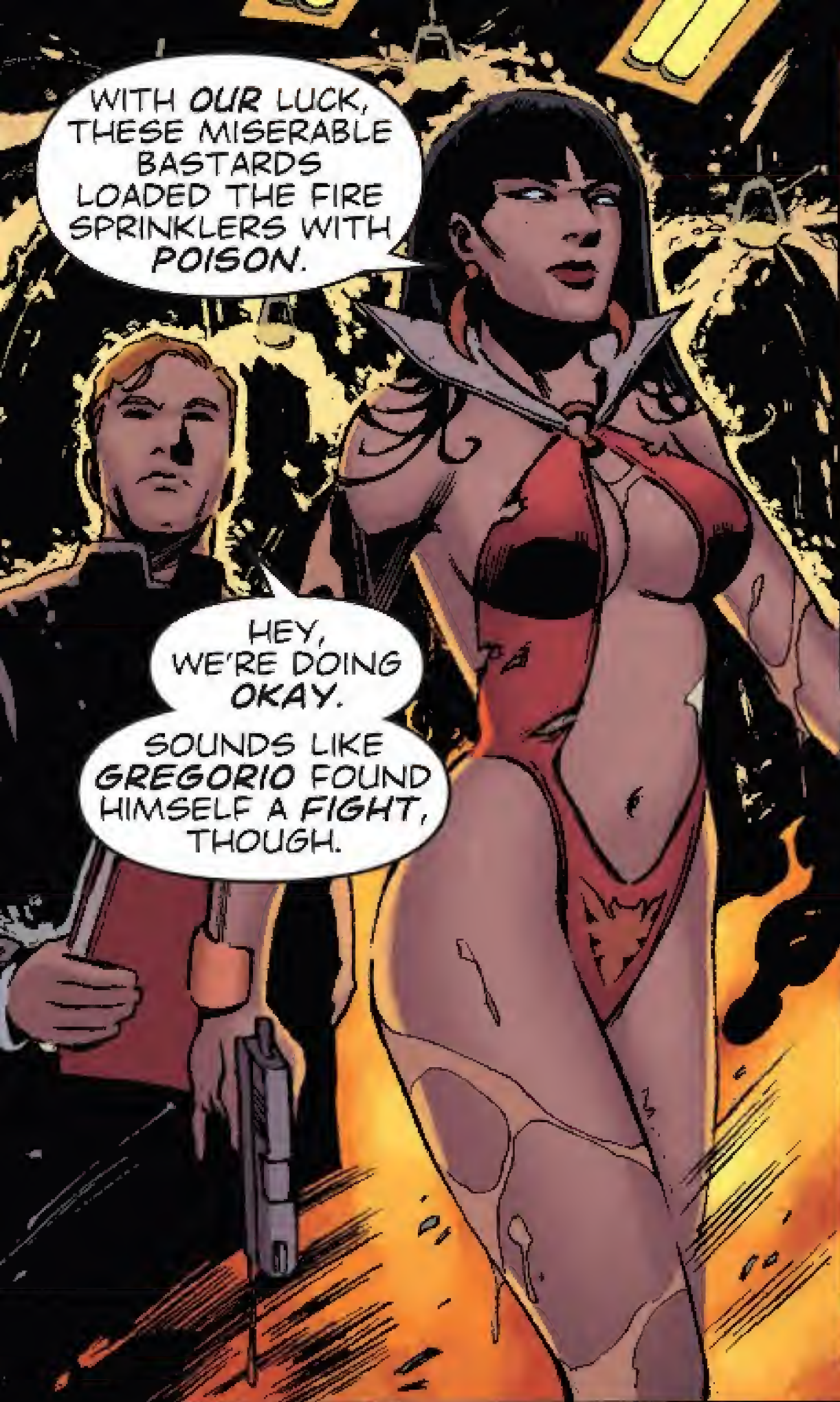


I WAS
STARTING TO
WORRY THAT
I WOULDN'T GET
THE **CHANCE**
TO KILL YOU
MYSELF.



BLAM

WHU POOOOM



WITH OUR LUCK, THESE MISERABLE BASTARDS LOADED THE FIRE SPRINKLERS WITH POISON.

HEY, WE'RE DOING OKAY.

SOUNDS LIKE GREGORIO FOUND HIMSELF A FIGHT, THOUGH.



GREGORIO! WE'RE HERE!

BRUKKA
BRUKKA
BRUKKA



IT'S AN HONOR, VAMPIRELLA. THANK YOU.

THE HONOR'S ALL MINE.



I'VE GOT A TRANSPORT SPELL. COME ON, BOTH OF YOU!

THAT
WAS
ALREADY
DONE

BRUKKA
BRUKKA



I AM STAYING.

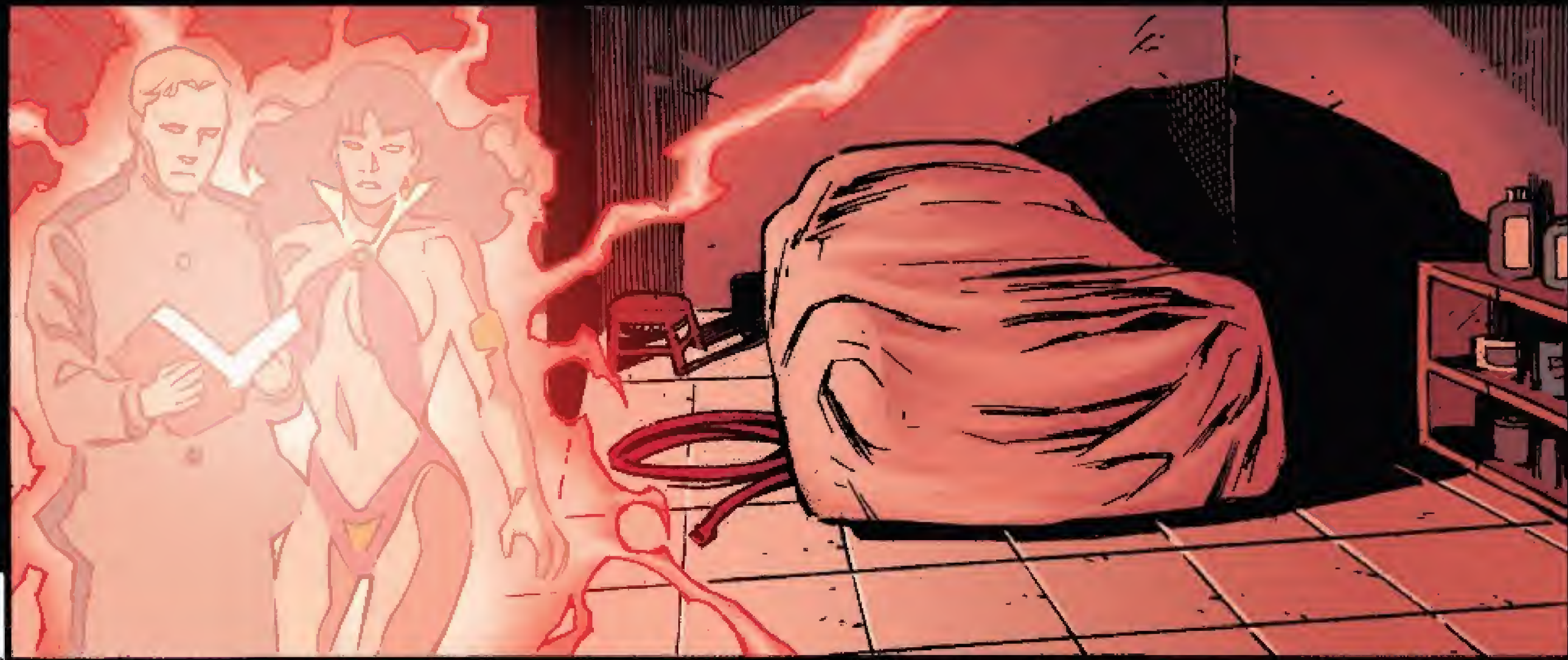
DAVID AND I SWORE AN OATH TO DEFEND THE CHURCH. IT IS THE HOUSE OF OUR GOD...



BRUKKA
BRUKKA

...AND I WILL SEE THIS EVIL DRIVEN FROM IT, OR DIE BY MY WORD.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU ALWAYS, MY FRIENDS. GOODBYE.



IS THIS YOUR *GARAGE*?
AND WHAT'S HIDING UNDER
HERE?

IT WAS ONE
OF THE *ESCAPE*
OPTIONS ON
MY LIST.

I'M
PREPARED
TO *LOSE*
EVERYTHING
IN THIS DEAL,
BUT I'D LIKE
TO KEEP THIS
INTACT, IF
I CAN.

YOU DIDN'T
LOSE *EVERY-*
THING, TOM.



WHAT DID
YOU--UH, I
MEAN, WHY
DID--

WHAT CAN
I SAY? YOU REALLY
KNOW HOW TO MAKE
A GIRL FEEL *SPECIAL*.

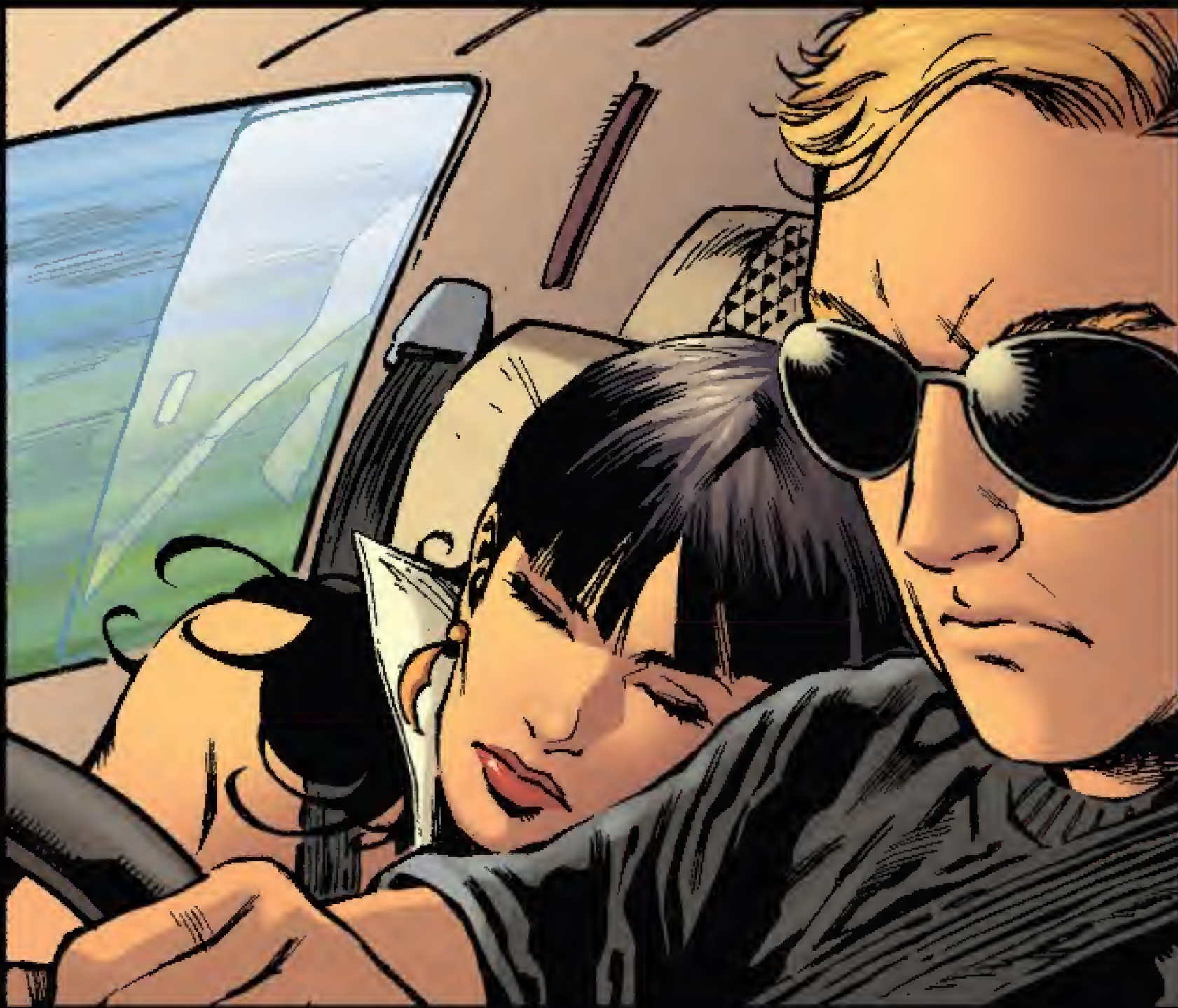
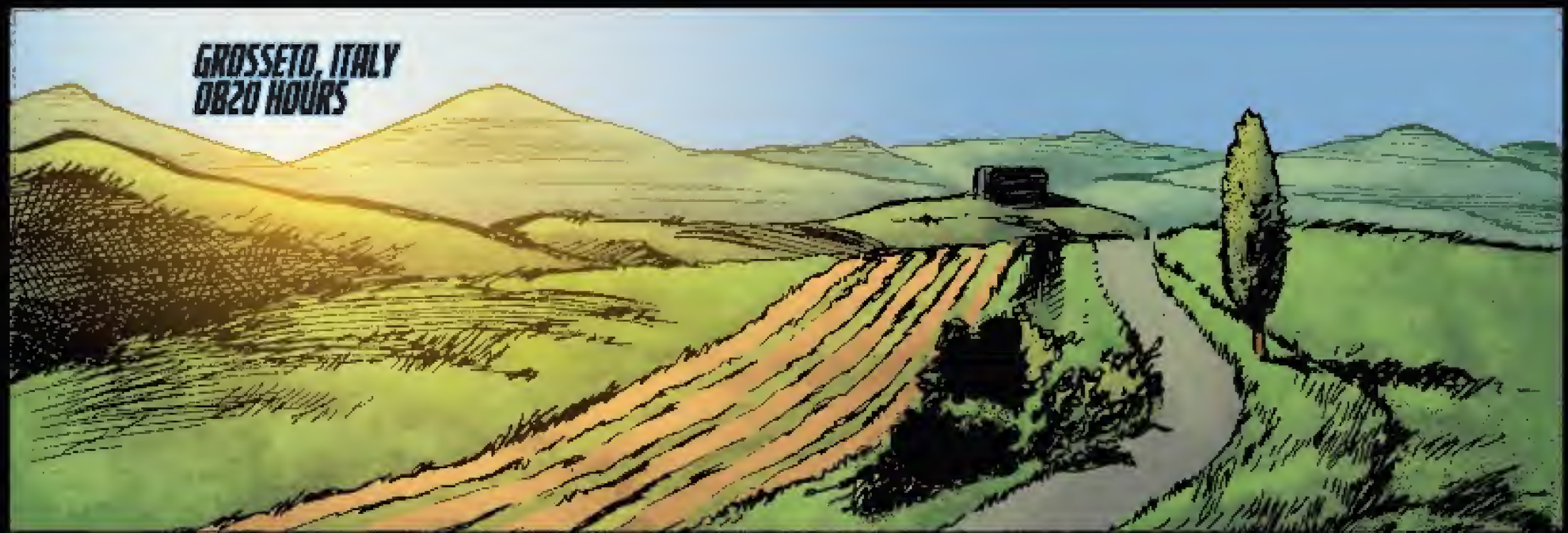


HELL-O!

I BET YOU'VE HAD A
COUPLE OF *UNEXPECTED*
KISSES BASED ON THIS
BABY ALONE, HMM?

HERE.
I PACKED US BOTH
SOME VACATION
CLOTHES.

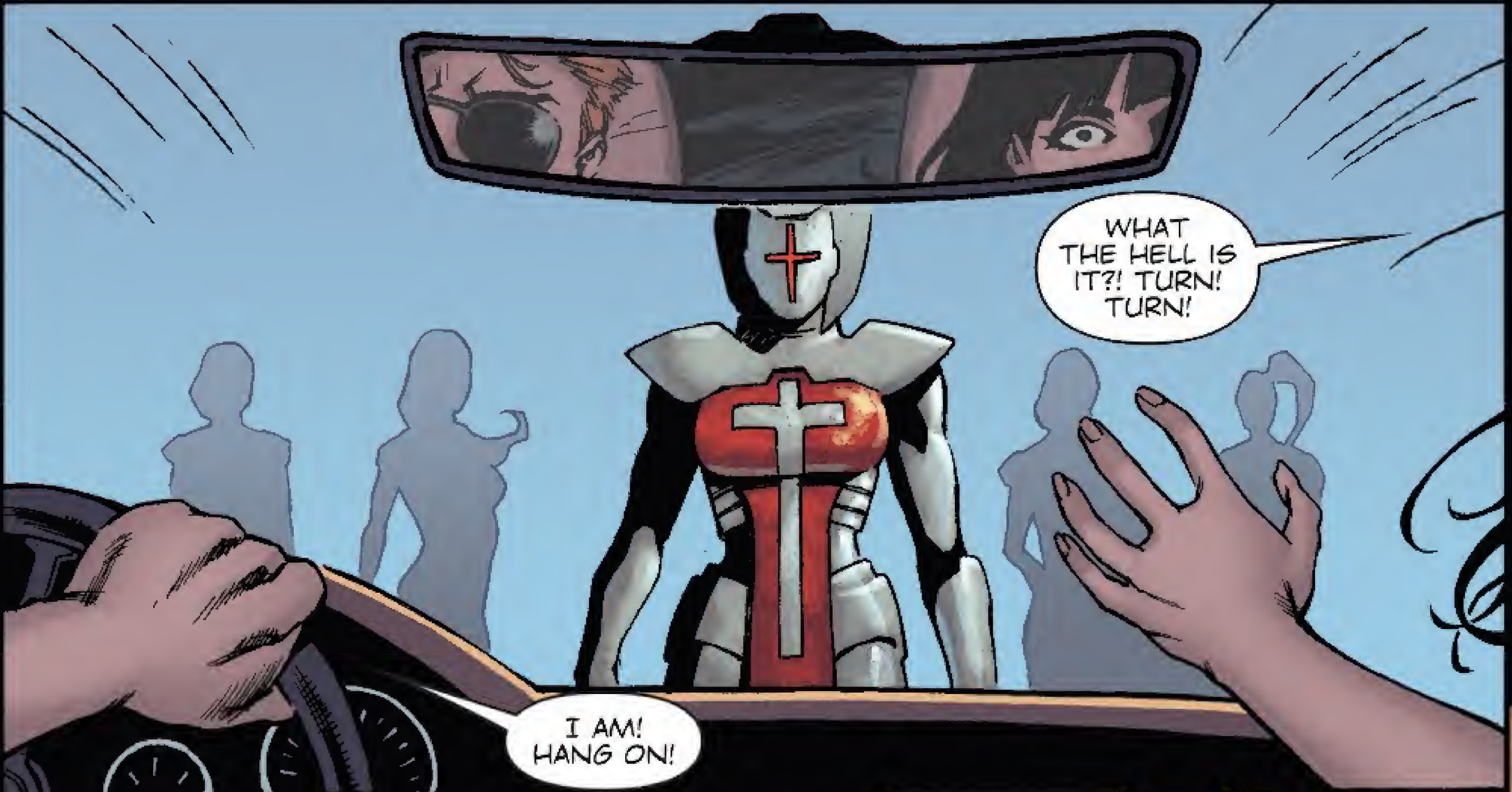






THIS ISN'T GOING WELL. I'M YOUR FRIEND, AND I DO CONSIDER MYSELF ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS. JUST HEAR ME OUT--

TOM! LOOK--!

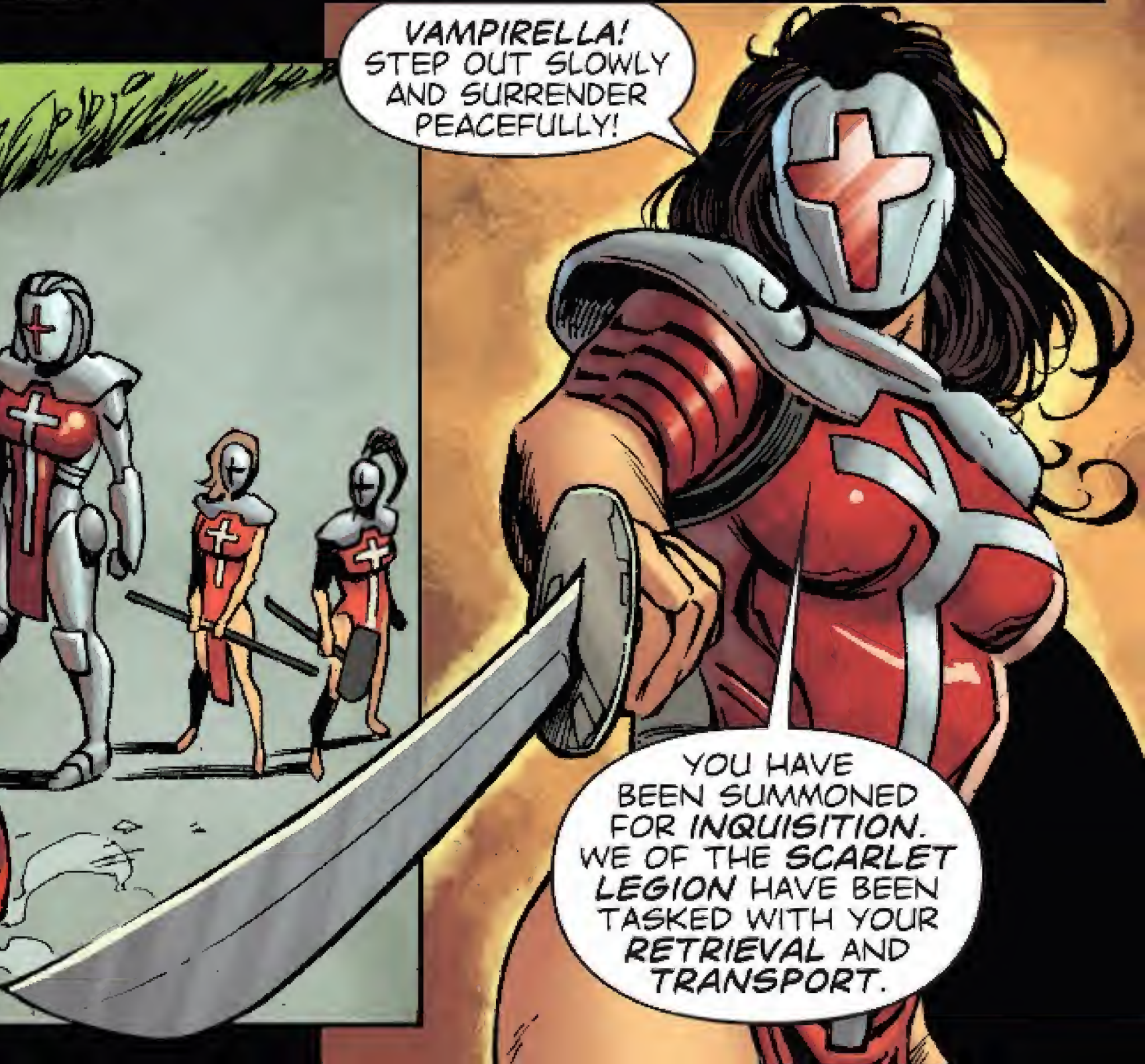


WHAT THE HELL IS IT?! TURN! TURN!

I AM! HANG ON!



VAMPIRELLA! STEP OUT SLOWLY AND SURRENDER PEACEFULLY!



YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED FOR INQUISITION. WE OF THE SCARLET LEGION HAVE BEEN TASKED WITH YOUR RETRIEVAL AND TRANSPORT.



SURRENDER
PEACEFULLY,
MY ASS.

VEE, DON'T DO THIS. JUST
FOLLOW THEIR ORDERS,
OKAY? IF THIS TURNS
INTO A FIGHT--

HAVE YOU
LOST YOUR DAMN
MIND?! I HOPE THIS
DOES TURN INTO A
FIGHT! WHY WOULD--

THIS IS
WHAT I WAS TRYING TO EXPLAIN
TO YOU! JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE--

KRREESHRRUUUUNK



I SAY
AGAIN:
SURRENDER
WITHOUT
INCIDENT!

WE'RE NOT
LOOKING FOR
TROUBLE.

I WAS PROMISED
THAT SHE WOULDN'T BE
HARMED UNDER ANY
CIRCUMSTANCES.



YOUR
CONCERNS ARE
NOTED, MISTER
CRISWELL.

WHAT?
YOU TWO...YOU KNOW
EACH OTHER?!



IT'S NOT
LIKE--

SAVE
IT.



LEGIONNAIRES,
PREP FOR
EXTRACTION.

WHITWHITWHITWHITWHITWHITWHITWHIT



CHERSKY RANGE
SIBERIA, RUSSIA
1700 HOURS LOCAL

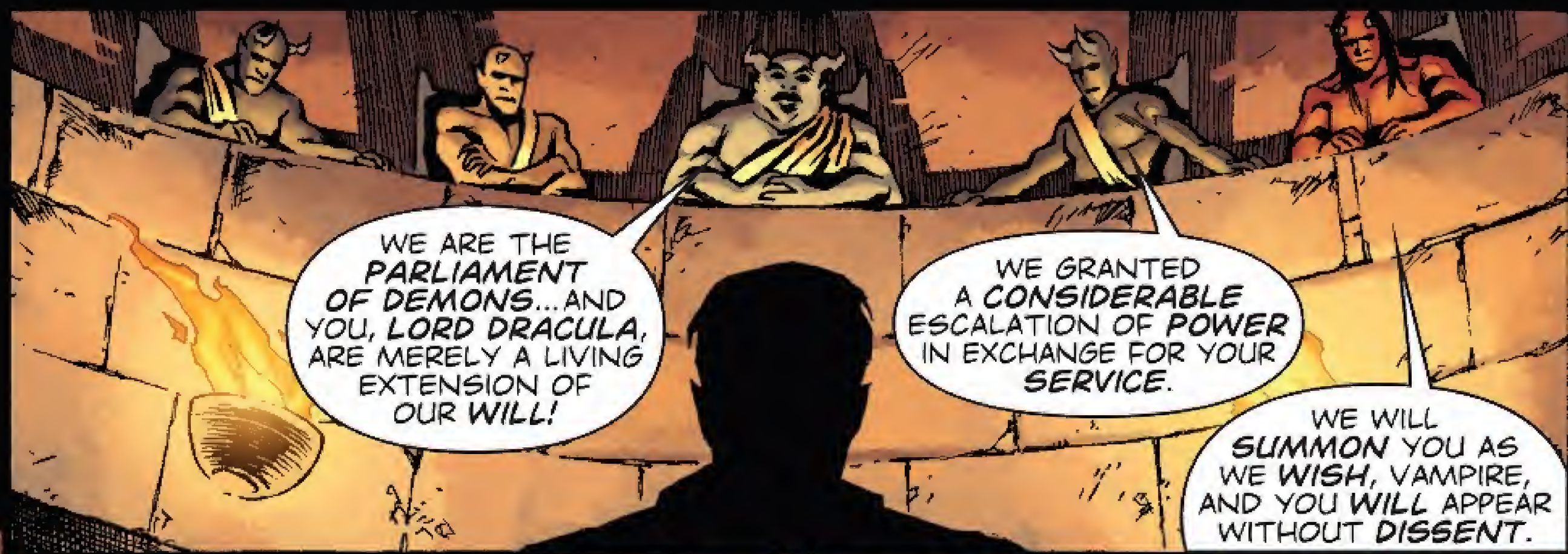




WHY HAVE YOU CALLED ME HERE?

YOU HAVE MADE COUNTLESS DEMANDS OF ME, AND I HAVE ACQUIESCED AT EVERY TURN.

MY PATIENCE IS BEING TESTED, AND THAT DISPLEASES ME GREATLY.



WE ARE THE PARLIAMENT OF DEMONS... AND YOU, LORD DRACULA, ARE MERELY A LIVING EXTENSION OF OUR WILL!

WE GRANTED A CONSIDERABLE ESCALATION OF POWER IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SERVICE.

WE WILL SUMMON YOU AS WE WISH, VAMPIRE, AND YOU WILL APPEAR WITHOUT DISSENT.

DRACUL! DRACUL! DRACUL!

I RAISED A MIGHTY ARMY AT YOUR URGING. HAVE WE GONE TO WAR? NO! WE HAVE INSTEAD ASSEMBLED BEFORE YOU IN THIS PLACE, ESCHEWING BATTLE FOR... PAGEANTRY.

IF I AM AN EXTENSION OF YOUR WISHES, THEN MAKE YOUR WISHES KNOWN...

...AND LET ME MAKE READY MY SOLDIERS FOR A BLOODY VICTORY AGAINST OUR ENEMIES!





WE ALLOW YOU TO LEAD OUR ARMY, DRACULA.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE THAT CAN BE REVOKED WITHOUT WARNING OR IMMUNITY...

...OR CHALLENGED BY AN OUTSIDER THAT WE DEEM WORTHY.

YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED HERE TO PROVE YOUR WORTH AGAINST A CHALLENGER WHO SEEKS TO UNSEAT YOU.

YOU EMBARRASS YOURSELVES.



WHO STANDS AGAINST ME? WHO DARES CHALLENGE DRACULA?

WHO?!



YOU WOULD HOWL FOR SATISFACTION LIKE AN ANIMAL IN HEAT... AFTER ACCUSING US OF PAGEANTRY?

CHALLENGER! PRESENT YOURSELF!



YOU LOOK GENUINELY SURPRISED, MY LORD. I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE.



I KNOW THAT I COULD NEVER DEFEAT YOU IN ONE-ON-ONE BATTLE. I'M NOT BOTHERED BY THE NOTION...

...BECAUSE MY ALLY SOFIA IS MORE THAN CAPABLE OF ENDING YOUR HATEFUL LIFE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

TO BE CONTINUED!

DYNAMITE
23

VAMPIRELLA®



Reuans
2012
6



FABIANO

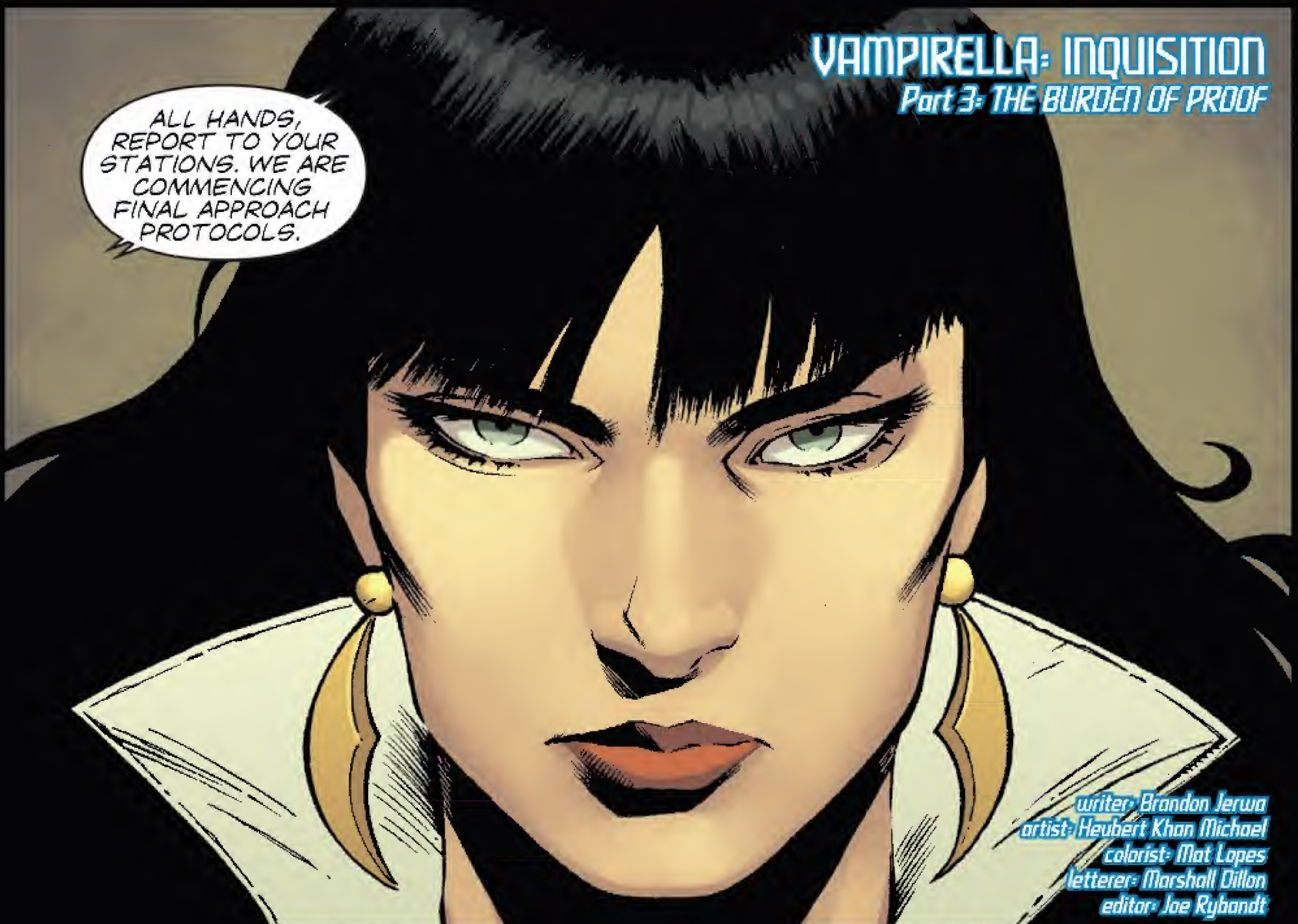
VAMPIRELLA®

DYNAMITE
23

VAMPIRELLA®



— H. ANDRADA —
Vinicius
Andrade

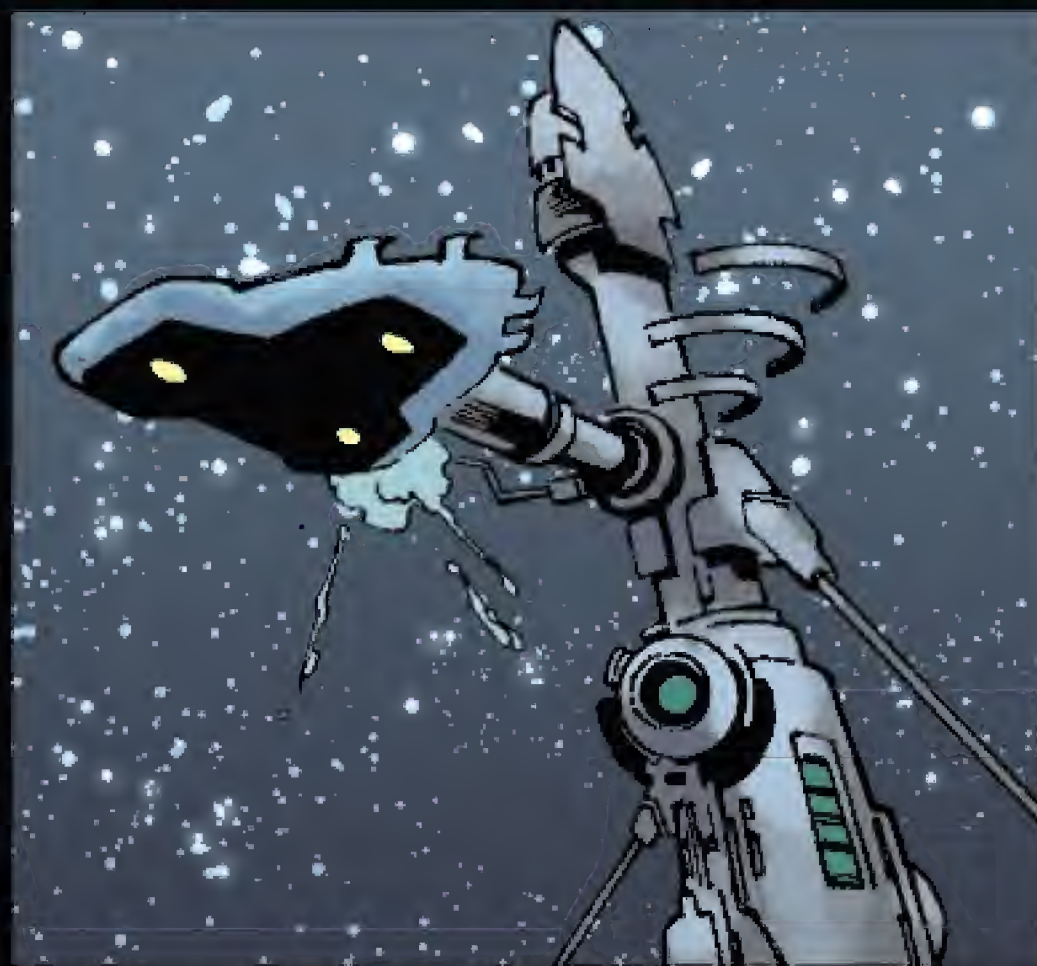
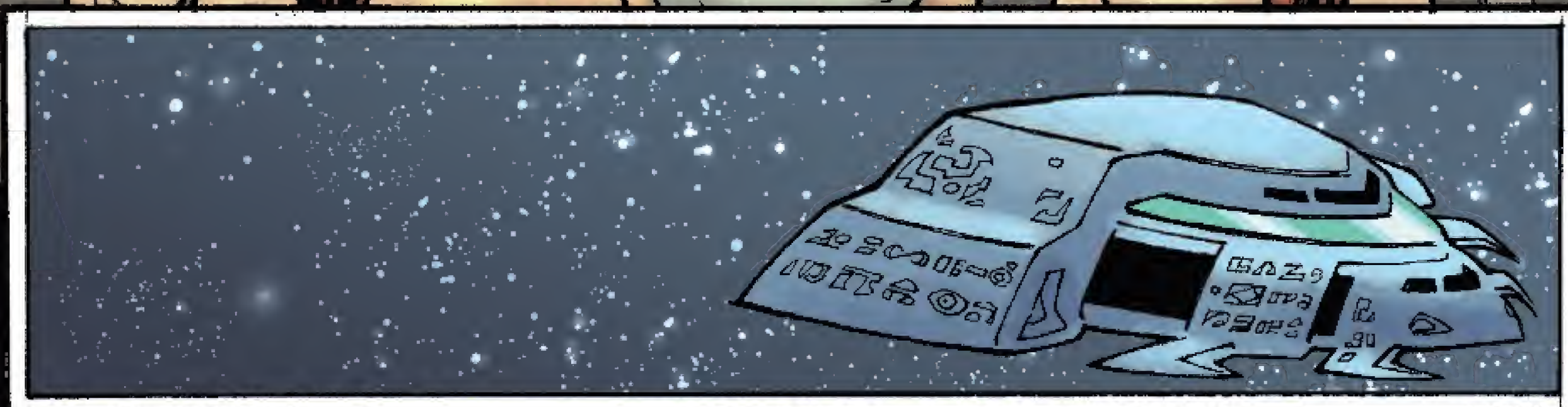
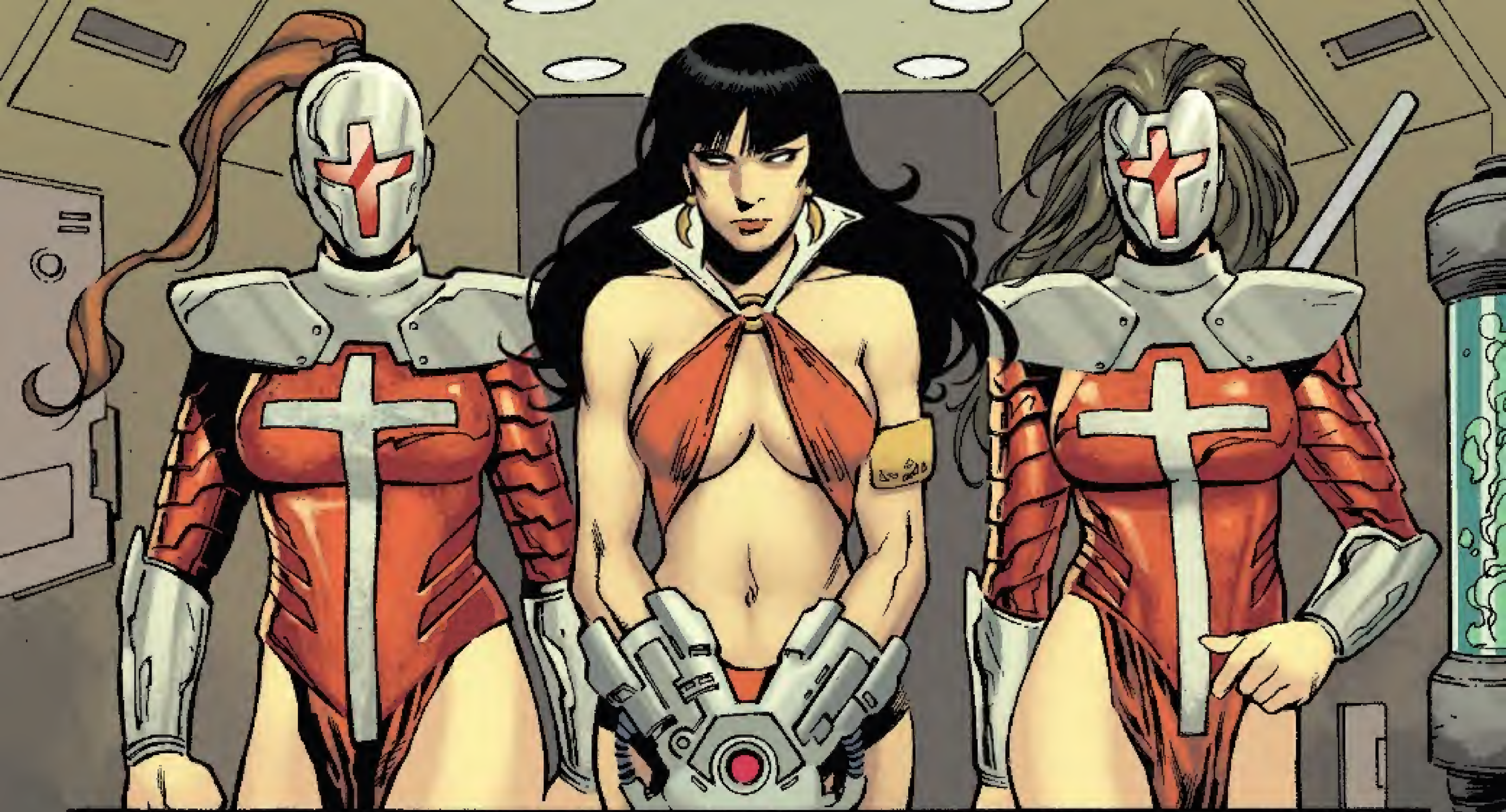


ALL HANDS,
REPORT TO YOUR
STATIONS. WE ARE
COMMENCING
FINAL APPROACH
PROTOCOLS.

VAMPIRELLA: INQUISITION

Part 3: THE BURDEN OF PROOF

writer: Brandon Jerwa
artist: Heubert Khan Michael
colorist: Mat Lopes
letterer: Marshall Dillon
editor: Joe Rybandt



YOUR ARRIVAL TIME WAS NINETEEN-POINT-SEVEN-OH-FOUR CHROMATS BEHIND SCHEDULE.

WE ENCOUNTERED SOME INITIAL RESISTANCE.

SHALL I ELEVATE SECURITY PROTOCOLS?

DON'T WORRY, IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

I'VE GIVEN UP ON RESISTING.



IS IT
SAFE?

NINERT
ZEKTOR!

PERHAPS
WE SHOULD
MOVE.

PANARATH'S
WASTE MOUTH!

SOLEO
*LOL *MOO
OLO*LO

IT'S ONLY
FAIR.



I SEE THE
CONJURESS HAS
APPROVED YOU
FOR REDUCED
RESTRICTION.

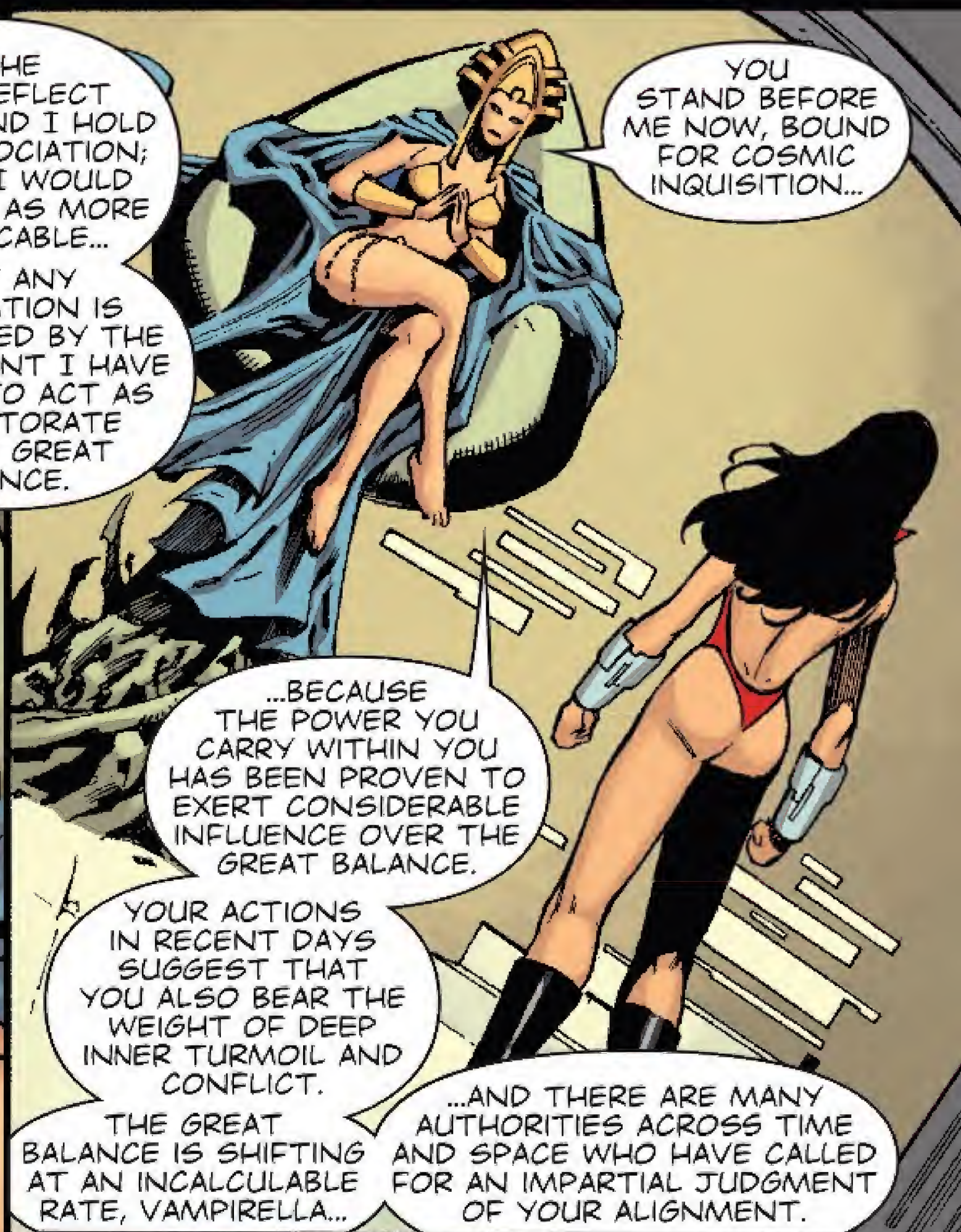
AS MODERATOR
FOR THIS INQUISITION,
I LOOK FORWARD
TO YOUR CONTINUED
COOPERATION.



VAMPIRELLA.

LET THE
RECORD REFLECT
THAT YOU AND I HOLD
A LONG ASSOCIATION;
ONE THAT I WOULD
CATEGORIZE AS MORE
THAN AMICABLE...

...BUT ANY
ASSOCIATION IS
SUPERCEDED BY THE
COMMITMENT I HAVE
SWORN, TO ACT AS
PROTECTORATE
OF THE GREAT
BALANCE.



YOU
STAND BEFORE
ME NOW, BOUND
FOR COSMIC
INQUISITION...

...BECAUSE
THE POWER YOU
CARRY WITHIN YOU
HAS BEEN PROVEN TO
EXERT CONSIDERABLE
INFLUENCE OVER THE
GREAT BALANCE.

YOUR ACTIONS
IN RECENT DAYS
SUGGEST THAT
YOU ALSO BEAR THE
WEIGHT OF DEEP
INNER TURMOIL AND
CONFLICT.

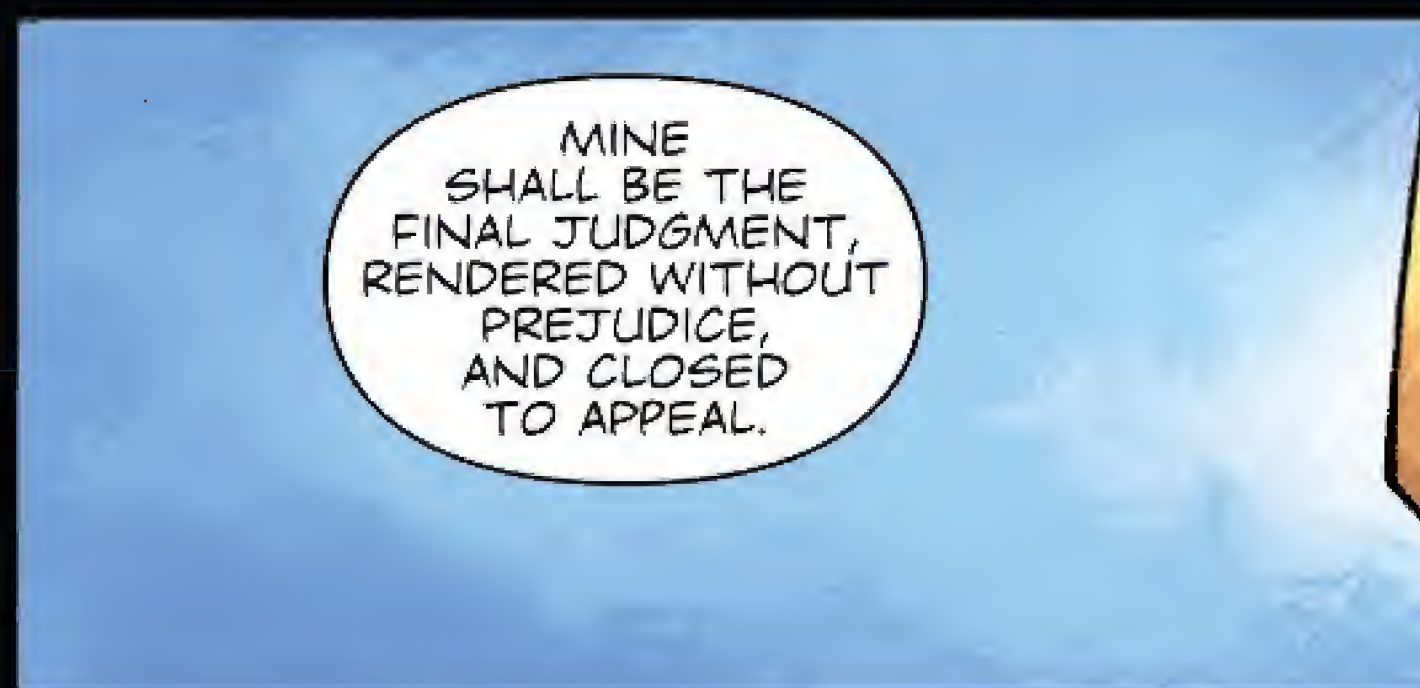
THE GREAT
BALANCE IS SHIFTING
AT AN INCALCULABLE
RATE, VAMPIRELLA...

...AND THERE ARE MANY
AUTHORITIES ACROSS TIME
AND SPACE WHO HAVE CALLED
FOR AN IMPARTIAL JUDGMENT
OF YOUR ALIGNMENT.



CHAOS AND
ORDER SHALL EACH
HAVE THEIR INTERESTS
REPRESENTED BY AN
ADVOCATE.

THEY WILL SERVE
IN SIMILAR FASHION TO
THE ATTORNEYS OF
EARTH, ASSERTING POINTS
OF DEFENSE, OR OF
CONDEMNATION.

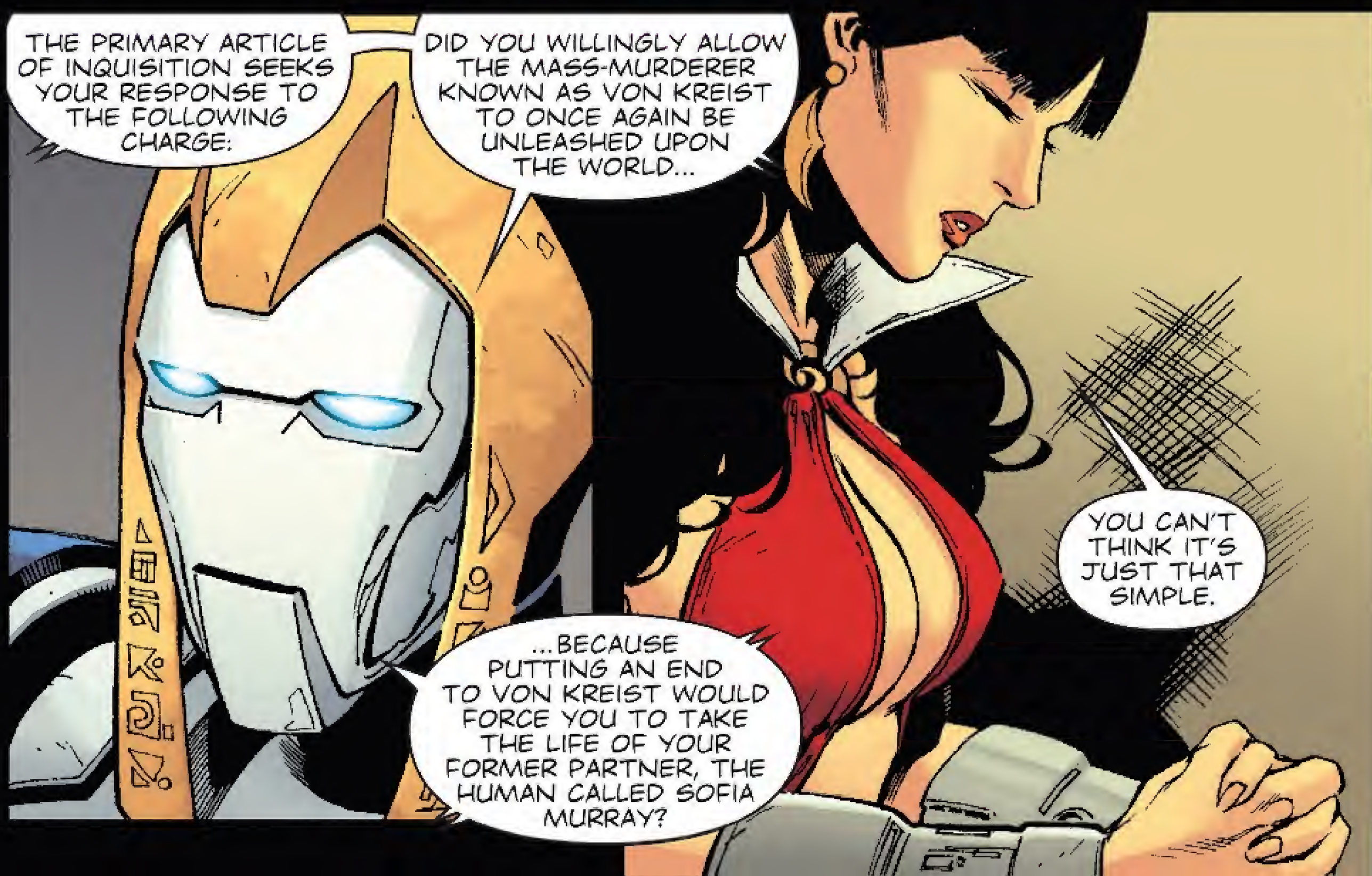


MINE
SHALL BE THE
FINAL JUDGMENT,
RENDERED WITHOUT
PREJUDICE,
AND CLOSED
TO APPEAL.



EXE,
YOU MAY
BEGIN.

VAMPIRELLA
OF DRAKULON, PLEASE
TAKE THE STAND OF
TESTIMONY.



THE PRIMARY ARTICLE
OF INQUISITION SEEKS
YOUR RESPONSE TO
THE FOLLOWING
CHARGE:

DID YOU WILLINGLY ALLOW
THE MASS-MURDERER
KNOWN AS VON KREIST
TO ONCE AGAIN BE
UNLEASHED UPON
THE WORLD...

...BECAUSE
PUTTING AN END
TO VON KREIST WOULD
FORCE YOU TO TAKE
THE LIFE OF YOUR
FORMER PARTNER, THE
HUMAN CALLED SOFIA
MURRAY?

YOU CAN'T
THINK IT'S
JUST THAT
SIMPLE.

DEEP WITHIN THE GHERSKY RANGE
SIBERIA, RUSSIA

TAKE HEED,
MY SOLDIERS!
I KNOW OF YOUR
HUNGER FOR WAR,
AND I PROMISE IT
SHALL BE FED
SOON...

...BUT FIRST,
I GIVE YOU A NIGHT
OF PLEASURE! THERE
WILL BE THEATRE ON
THIS STAGE!

WHAT MANNER
OF THEATRE,
YOU ASK!

MY FORMER PROTÉGÉ, THE
CLOWNISH LE FANU, SEEKS
TO WRITE A TRAGEDY...

...BUT I PREDICT
HER EFFORTS WILL
BE RECEIVED AS
UPROARIOUS COMEDY.
A FARCE! A FOLLY!

DRACULA HAS BEEN CAUGHT
OFF-GUARD BY OUR ARRIVAL,
SOFIA.

ADDRESS ME
PROPERLY.

MY
APOLOGIES,
VON KREIST.

SHALL
WE BEGIN THE
SPECTACLE?!

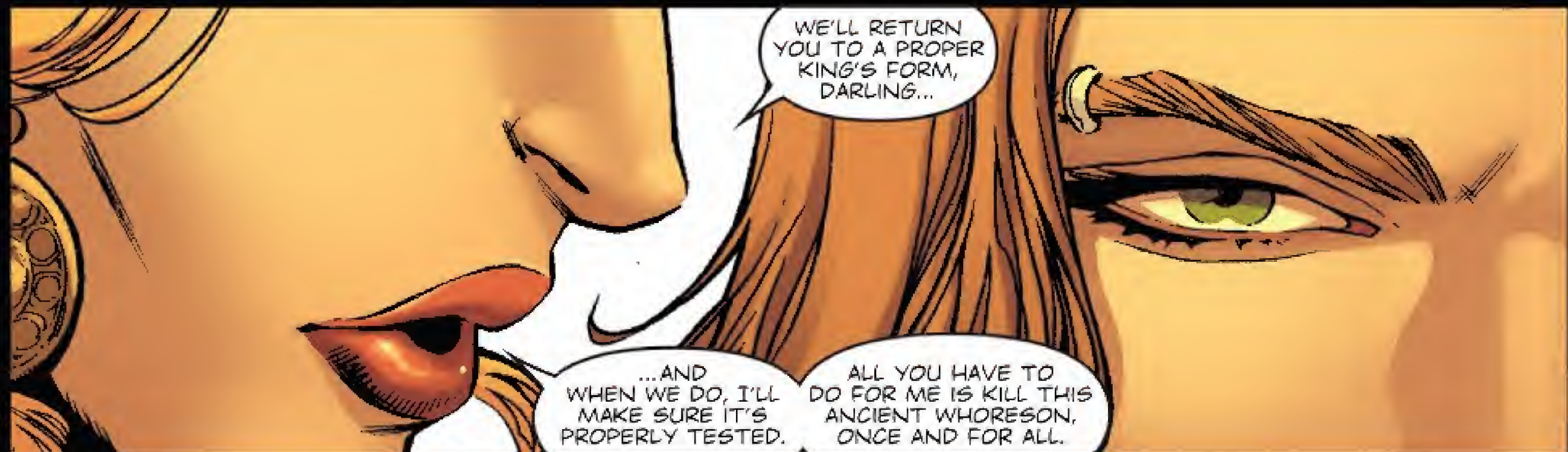
DRACUL!
DRACUL!
DRACUL!



I ONLY WISH THAT POMPOUS ASS COULD SEE MY TRUE FACE WHEN I PULL HIS HEART FROM HIS CHEST AND DEVOUR IT.



COME, GIRL. DANCE WITH ME.



WE'LL RETURN YOU TO A PROPER KING'S FORM, DARLING...

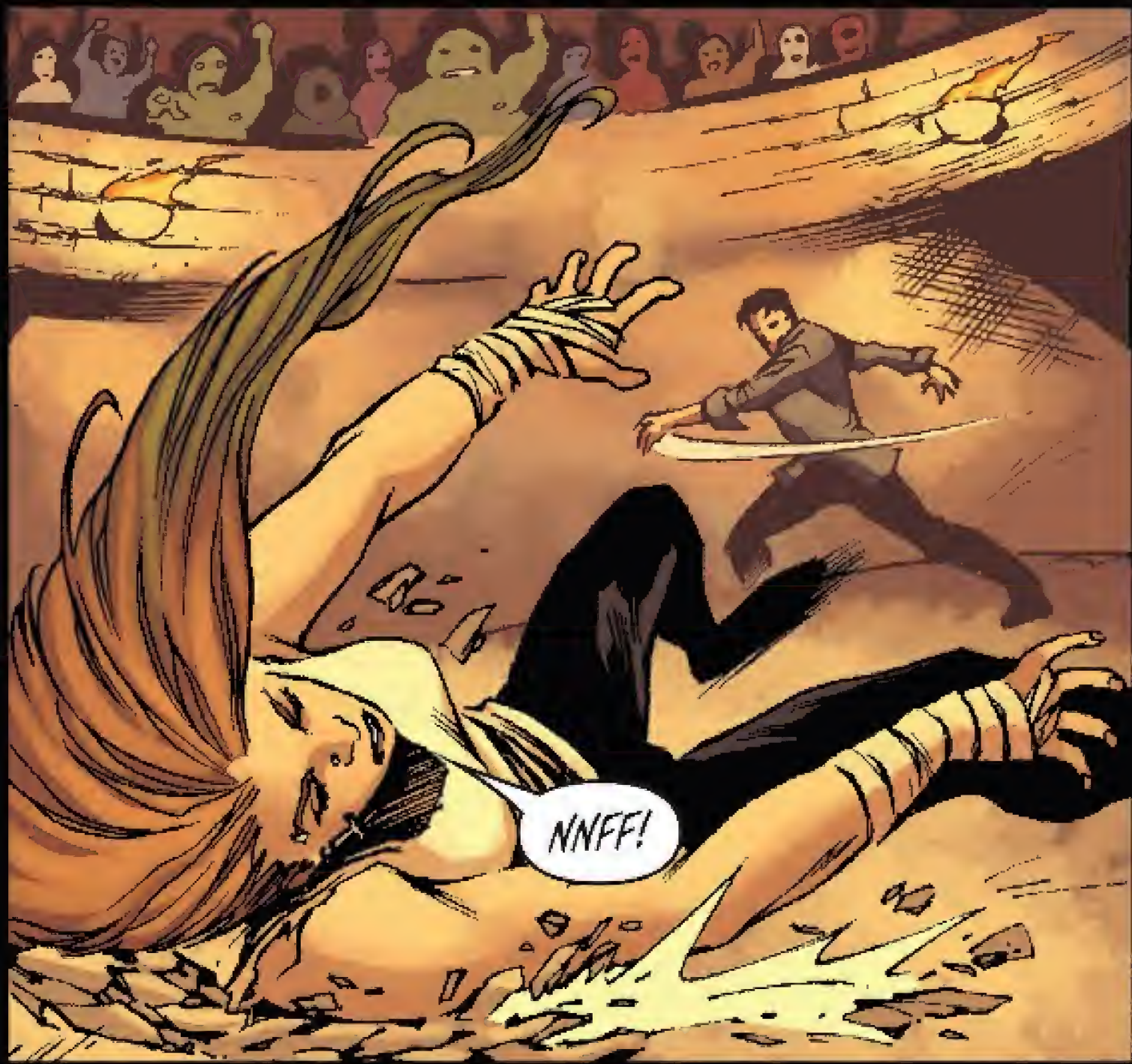
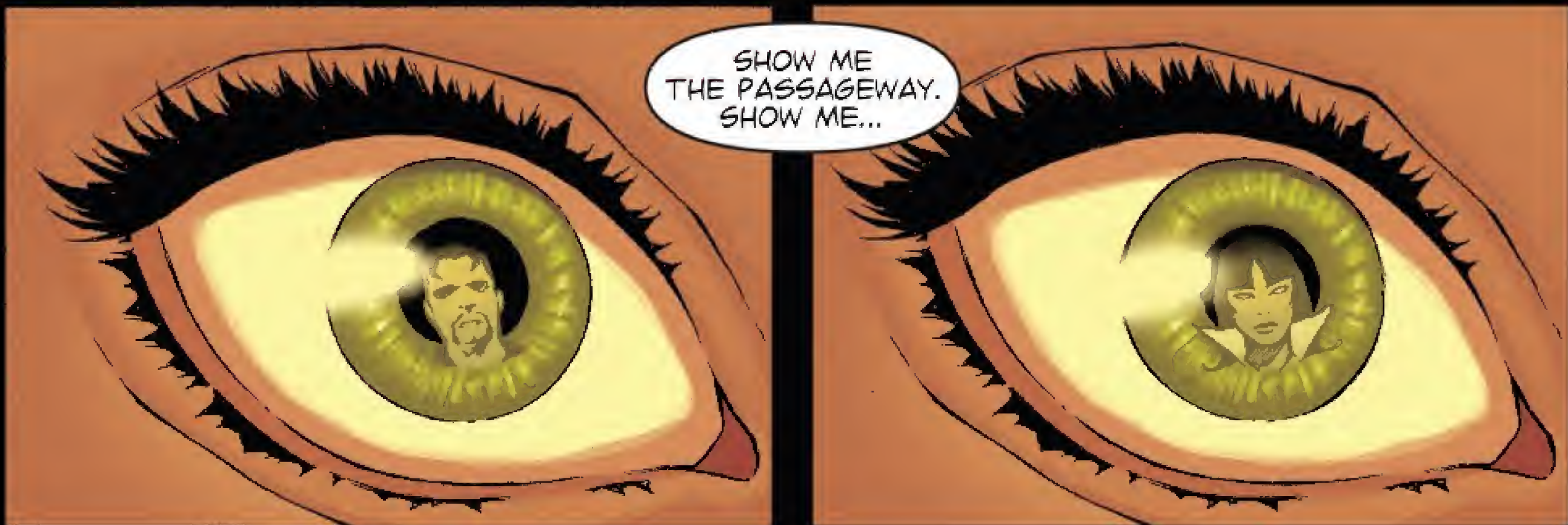
...AND WHEN WE DO, I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S PROPERLY TESTED.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO FOR ME IS KILL THIS ANCIENT WHORESO, ONCE AND FOR ALL.



HRRRKKK

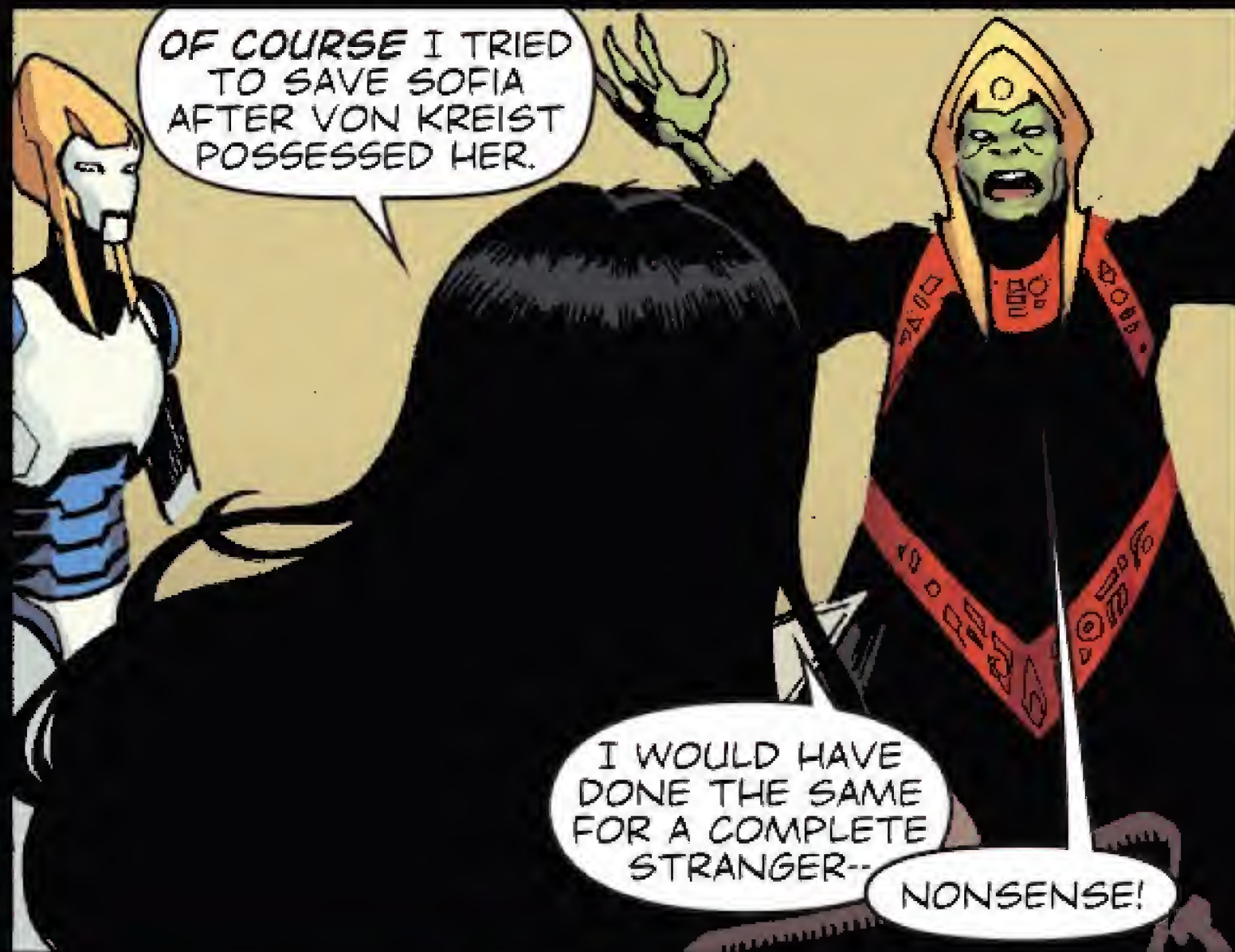
GGRKK-HHNNHHH
GGRGNNGH





--I'M SORRY.
WHAT...?

RIGHT...
SOFIA.



OF COURSE I TRIED
TO SAVE SOFIA
AFTER VON KREIST
POSSESSED HER.

I WOULD HAVE
DONE THE SAME
FOR A COMPLETE
STRANGER--

NONSENSE!



LET'S SUPPOSE THAT
VON KREIST--A SADISTIC
TERRORIST, AND KNOWN
MURDERER OF CHILDREN--
WERE TO POSSESS THIS
ALLEGED "COMPLETE
STRANGER."

DO YOU PLACE
SUCH A HIGH VALUE ON
ONE HUMAN LIFE...

...THAT YOU WOULDN'T
END THAT LIFE BEFORE IT
BECOMES THE LIVING VESSEL
FOR A HOMICIDAL MANIAC?



IF I THOUGHT I
COULD FIND ANOTHER
WAY, I WOULD. LIFE
IS PRECIOUS.

THE FATTONI SISTERS
LOST THEIR PRECIOUS LIVES
TO VON KREIST'S
MACHINATIONS, DIDN'T
THEY?

HOW MANY INNOCENTS
HAVE TO DIE BEFORE YOU'RE
WILLING TO PUT ASIDE YOUR
OWN SELFISHNESS AND PULL
THE METAPHORICAL TRIGGER?!



WHEN WILL YOU STOP LETTING
INNOCENT PEOPLE PAY THE PRICE
TO SATISFY YOUR NEED FOR
COMPANIONSHIP?!

IT'S A SHAME WE CAN'T
ASK YOUR LOST LOVE,
ADAM VAN HELSING--

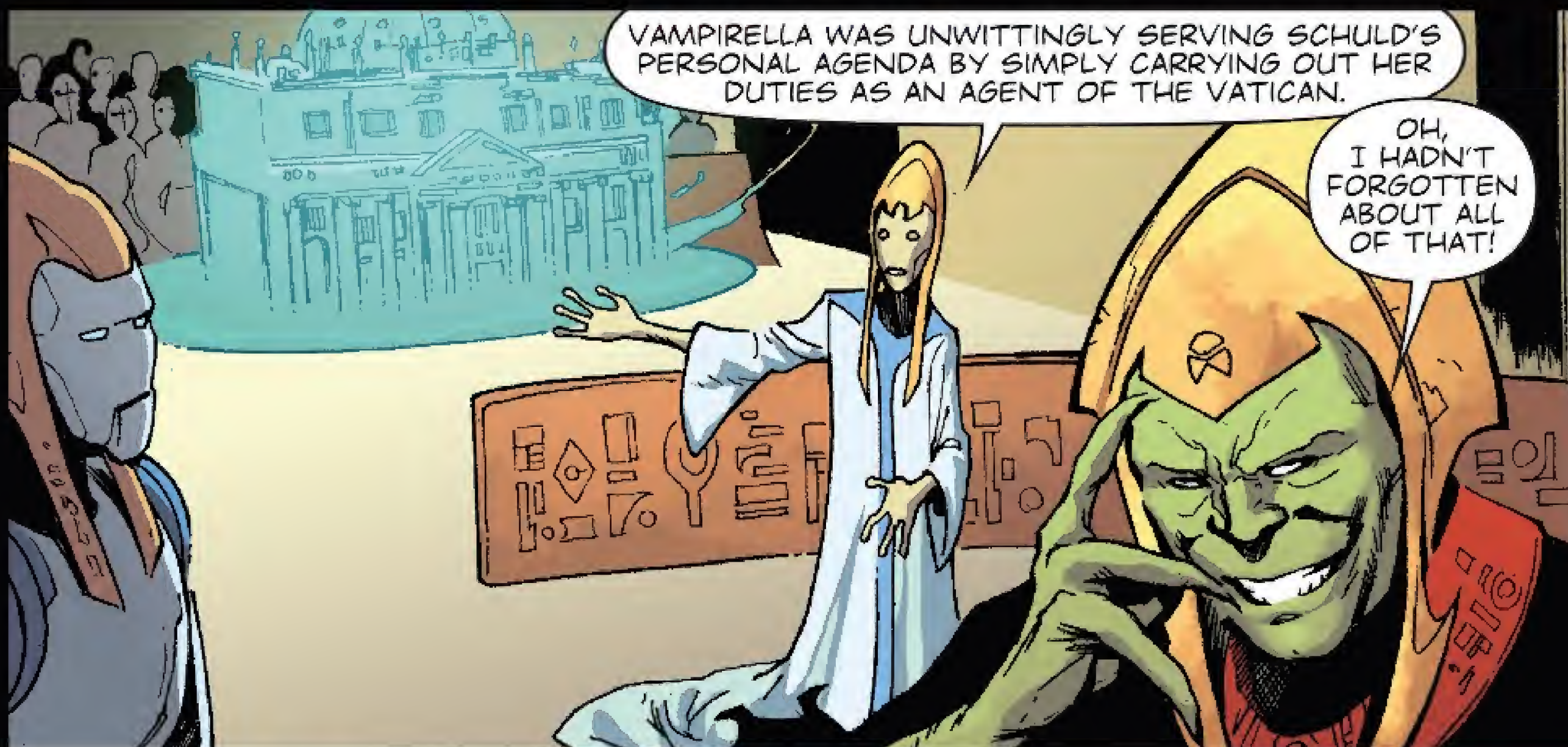
THIS ISN'T
ABOUT ADAM,
AND YOU
KNOW IT.



YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS IS ABOUT THE MONSTER THAT YOU'VE SET LOOSE UPON THE EARTH.

I THINK MY COUNTERPART IS FORGETTING THAT VAMPIRELLA WAS BEING MANIPULATED BY THE MAN CALLED SCHULD...

...WHO WAS, HIMSELF, A DESCENDANT OF VON KREIST, AND THE ARCHITECT OF A VAST NETWORK OF LIES AND DECEIT.



VAMPIRELLA WAS UNWITTINGLY SERVING SCHULD'S PERSONAL AGENDA BY SIMPLY CARRYING OUT HER DUTIES AS AN AGENT OF THE VATICAN.

OH, I HADN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT ALL OF THAT!



THE SCANTILY-CLAD VAMPIRE FROM A STRANGE WORLD WHO HUNTS MONSTERS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

TALK ABOUT AN AGENT OF CHAOS...!



DIDN'T YOU HEAR HIM? I WAS BEING TRICKED!

I AGREED TO WORK WITH THE VATICAN BECAUSE I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE--

"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"? ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S HISTORY OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE...?

IT CERTAINLY MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SEVERAL MILLION ALLEGED HERETICS, DIDN'T IT?







--MY OPINION,
SHE IS ABOVE
JUDGMENT.



THERE IS
NO GREATER
FORCE FOR
GOOD--



--EVEN WHEN
OUR VIEWS HAVE
DIFFERED, SHE
HAS BEEN WILLING
TO SEE BOTH
SIDES--



--I WENT
A LITTLE NUTS
FOR A WHILE,
AND VAMPIRELLA
HELPED REEL
ME BACK IN.



YOU'VE HEARD THE TESTIMONY.
MY CHAOTIC COUNTERPART WOULD SEE
VAMPIRELLA CONDEMNED... BUT FOR WHAT?
LOYALTY TO THE PEOPLE SHE LOVES?



I WOULD LIKE TO CALL
ANOTHER WITNESS,
CONJURESS.

PROCEED.



THE PARLIAMENT OF DEMONS SET YOU BEFORE ME AS A CHALLENGE TO MY LEADERSHIP.

I WONDER NOW WHICH OF US THEY WERE INTENDING TO HUMILIATE.



DID THEY KNOW THE TRUTH, AS I DO?

DID THEY REALIZE THAT THE BODY OF THE GIRL SOFIA IS A PRISON FOR TWO LOST, SORROWFUL SOULS?

H-HOW... DID YOU...

I AM DRACULA. I KNOW ALL.



FIGHT HIM, VON KREIST! HE'S CLOUDING YOUR MIND WITH ILLUSIONS!



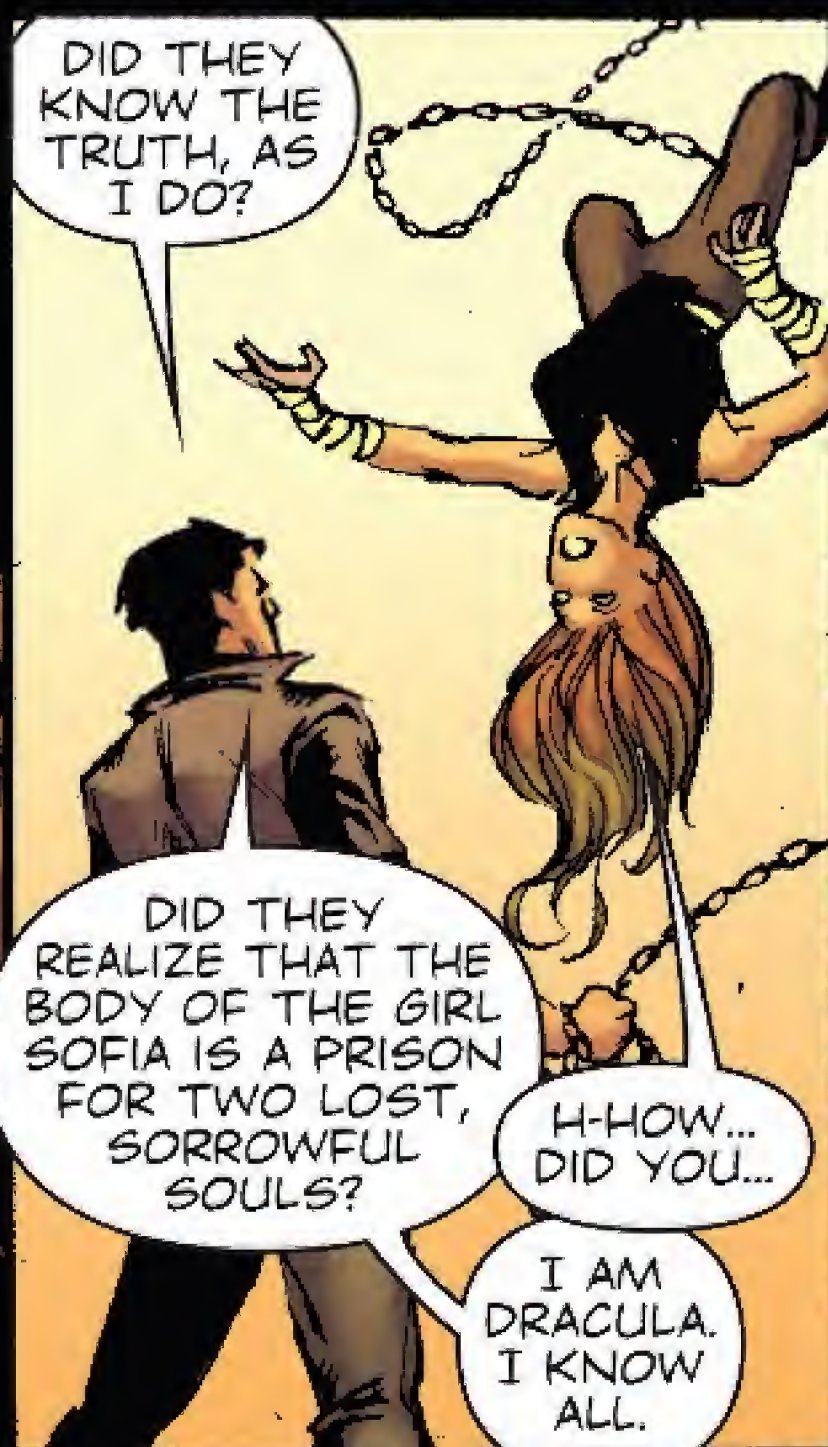
YOUR PROXY HAS FAILED YOU.

BETRAYAL, THY NAME IS LE FANU.



THE PARLIAMENT OF DEMONS SET YOU BEFORE ME AS A CHALLENGE TO MY LEADERSHIP.

I WONDER NOW WHICH OF US THEY WERE INTENDING TO HUMILIATE.



DID THEY KNOW THE TRUTH, AS I DO?

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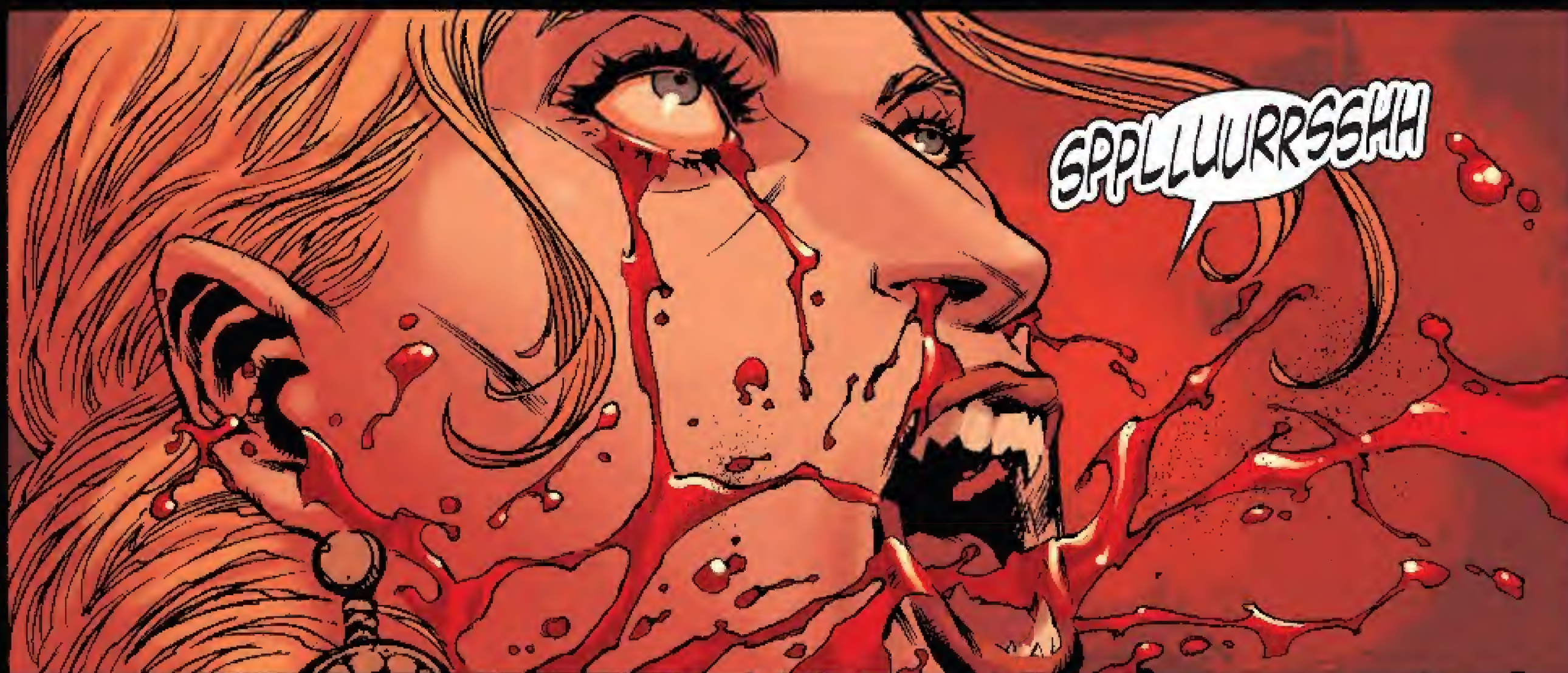


FIGHT HIM, VON KREIST! HE'S CLOUDING YOUR MIND WITH ILLUSIONS!



YOUR PROXY HAS FAILED YOU.

BETRAYAL, THY NAME IS LE FANU.





I CALL TO WITNESS, IF IT PLEASE YOU...

...LILITH.



I WILL ALLOW HER TESTIMONY...

...BUT LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT MY ALLOWANCE IS CONDITIONAL.

MADEK AND MAGDALENE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SPEAK.



OH, WELL. WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT OUR SISTER, IF ONLY IN SPIRIT.



PLEASE STATE, FOR THE RECORD, THE NATURE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH VAMPIRELLA.

I AM HER MOTHER.



I CANNOT DEFEND THE ACCUSED.

MY DAUGHTER HAS BETRAYED HER FAMILY AT EVERY TURN. SHE IS DELUSIONAL AND VINDICTIVE--



ENOUGH! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!

THIS WOMAN IS A LIAR!



BIND HER.

STAND DOWN, VAMPIRELLA.



YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME--

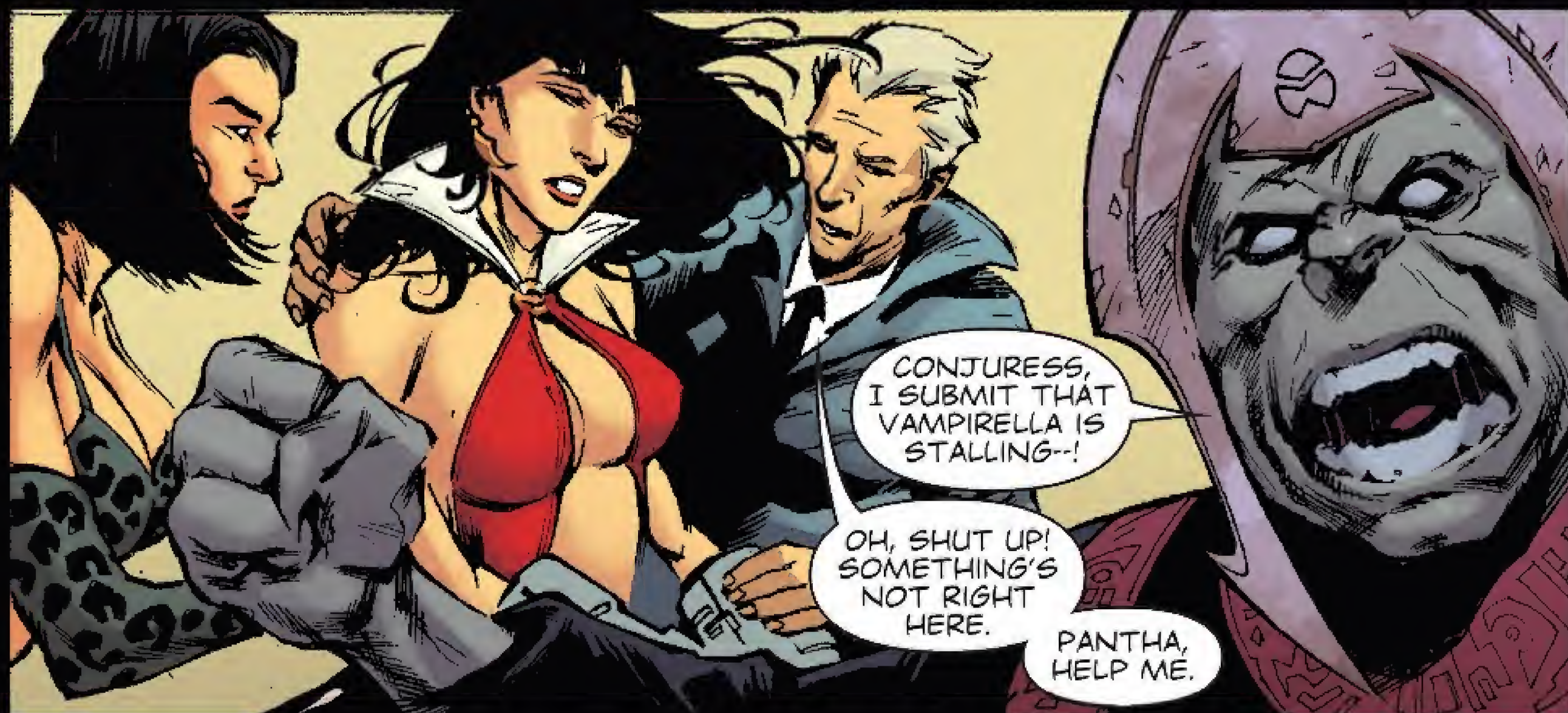
I RESPECTFULLY DECLINE FURTHER QUESTIONING.

I HAVE CLEARLY AGITATED MY DAUGHTER.



THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'VE DONE THE DAMAGE, AND NOW YOU'RE-- NNNNGH!

HEAR MY VOICE. SEE THROUGH MY EYES.



CONJURESS, I SUBMIT THAT VAMPIRELLA IS STALLING--!

OH, SHUT UP! SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE.

PANTHA, HELP ME.



SOFIA!







AS
WILL I.



COUNT US
IN. THERE WILL
BE MORE.



SHE WON'T
BE ALONE.
SHE'S NEVER
ALONE.



MY NAME IS
ADAM VAN HELSING,
AND I WILL GLADLY
TESTIFY ON HER
BEHALF...

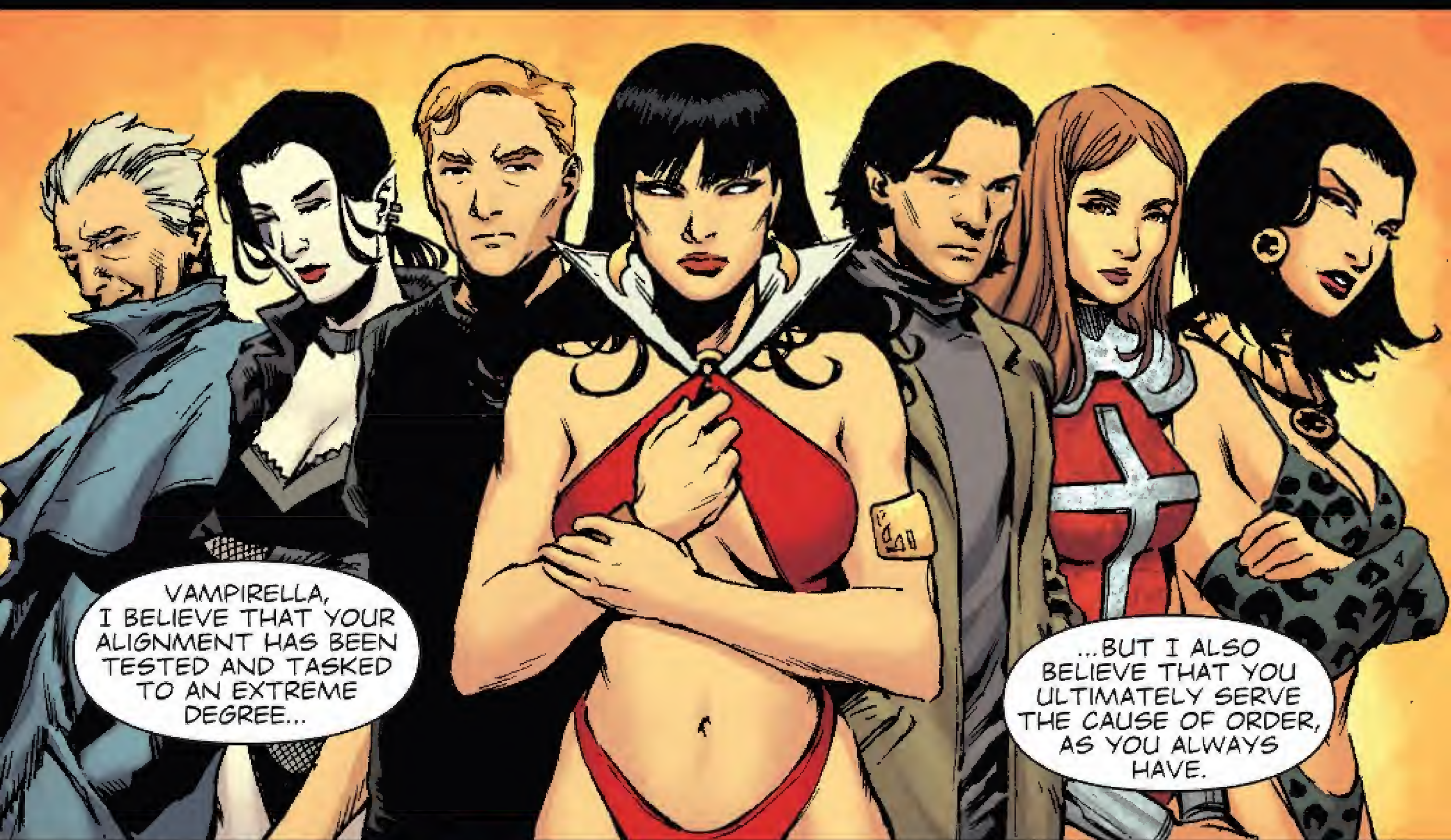
...AFTER WE
FINISH RESTORING
BALANCE TO
THE UNIVERSE,
THAT IS.



YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS--

SILENCE,
ADVOCATE.

AS SWORN
PROTECTOR OF
THE GREAT BALANCE,
I HEREBY RENDER
THE FOLLOWING
JUDGMENT...



VAMPIRELLA,
I BELIEVE THAT YOUR
ALIGNMENT HAS BEEN
TESTED AND TASKED
TO AN EXTREME
DEGREE...

...BUT I ALSO
BELIEVE THAT YOU
ULTIMATELY SERVE
THE CAUSE OF ORDER,
AS YOU ALWAYS
HAVE.

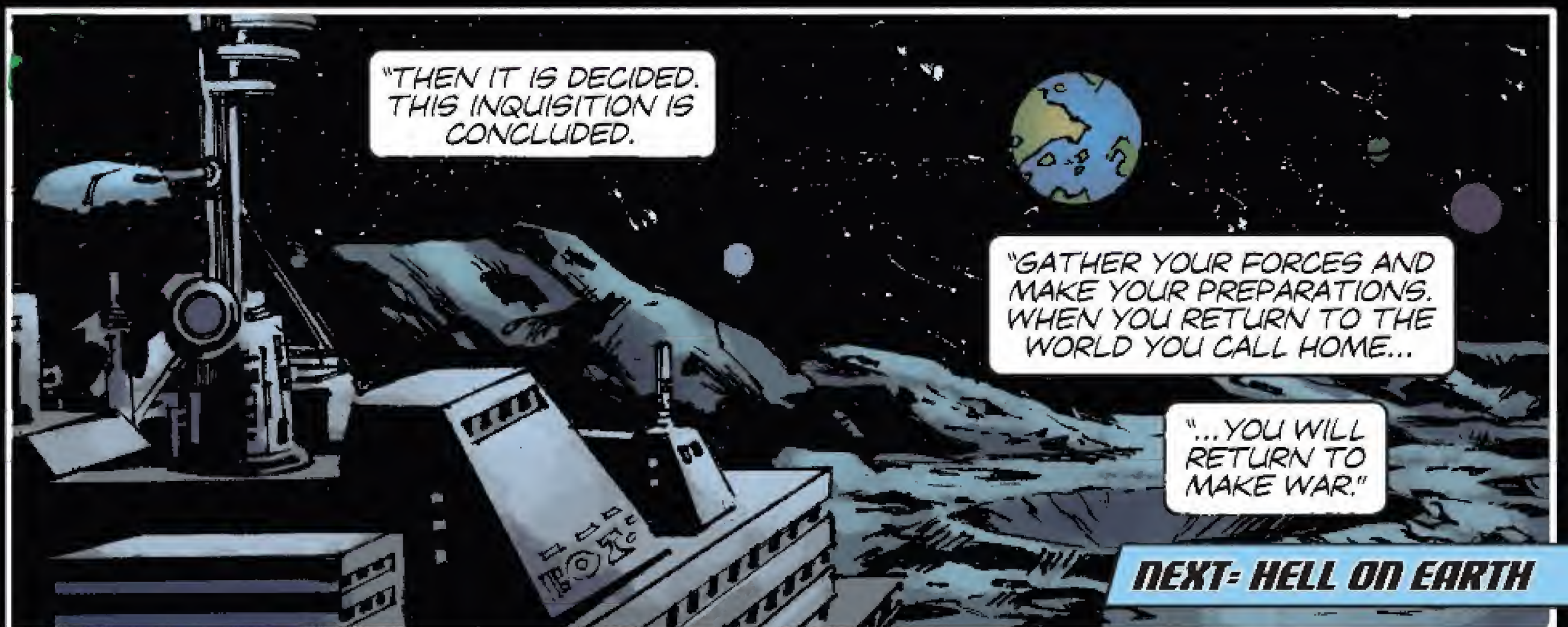


YOU HAVE SUFFERED
A CONSIDERABLE LOSS,
AND YOU HAVE MY
SYMPATHY.

LET
SOFIA MURRAY'S
DEATH BE A
HARBINGER OF CHANGE
WITHIN YOUR SOUL,
ERODING ALL EMOTIONAL
CONFLICT AS YOU
FACE YOUR
ENEMIES.



I SWEAR MY
DEVOTION TO
THE COMPLETE
DESTRUCTION
OF CHAOS.



"THEN IT IS DECIDED.
THIS INQUISITION IS
CONCLUDED.

"GATHER YOUR FORCES AND
MAKE YOUR PREPARATIONS.
WHEN YOU RETURN TO THE
WORLD YOU CALL HOME...

"...YOU WILL
RETURN TO
MAKE WAR."

NEXT: HELL ON EARTH

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HELL ON EARTH

PART 1 OF 2

FORCE DISPERSAL

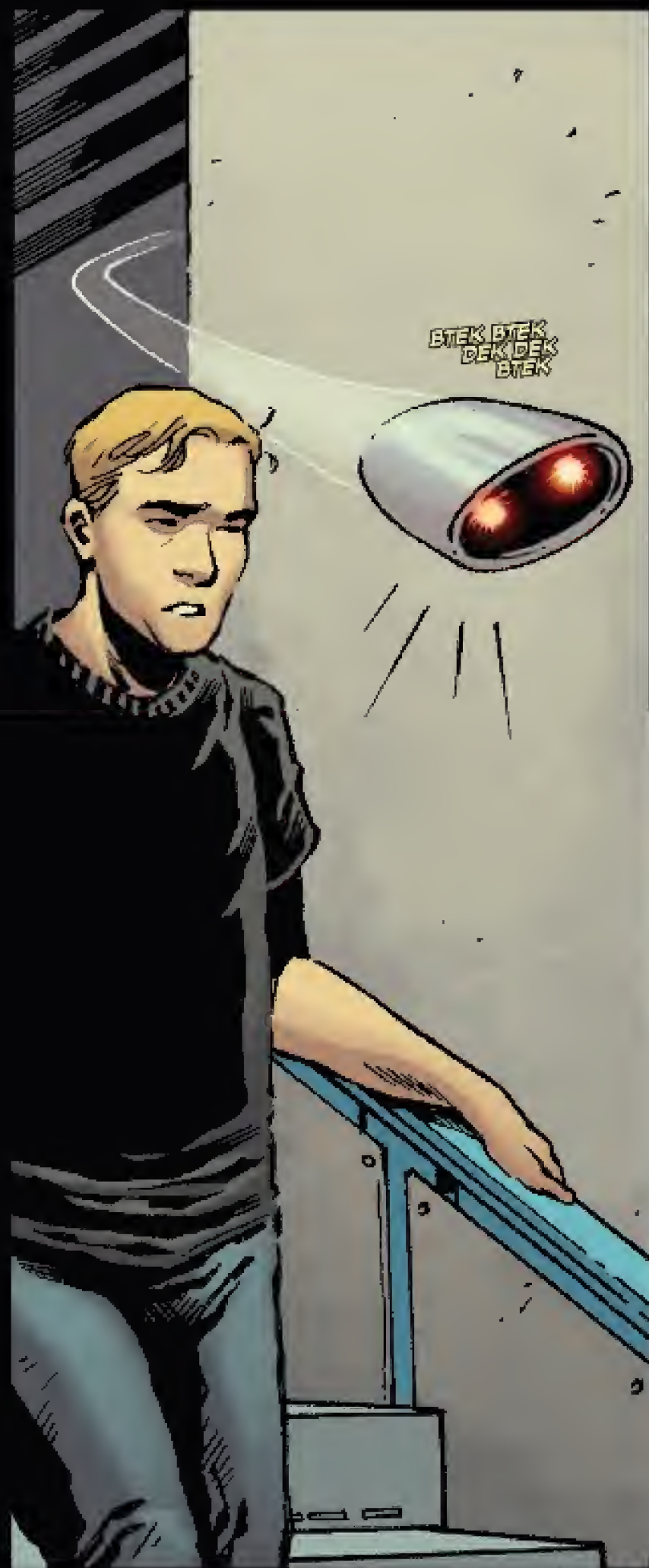
writer: Brandon Jerwa artist: Heubert Khan Michael



colorist: Mat Lopes letterer: Marshall Dillon editor: Joe Rybandt









OKAY.

MMP.

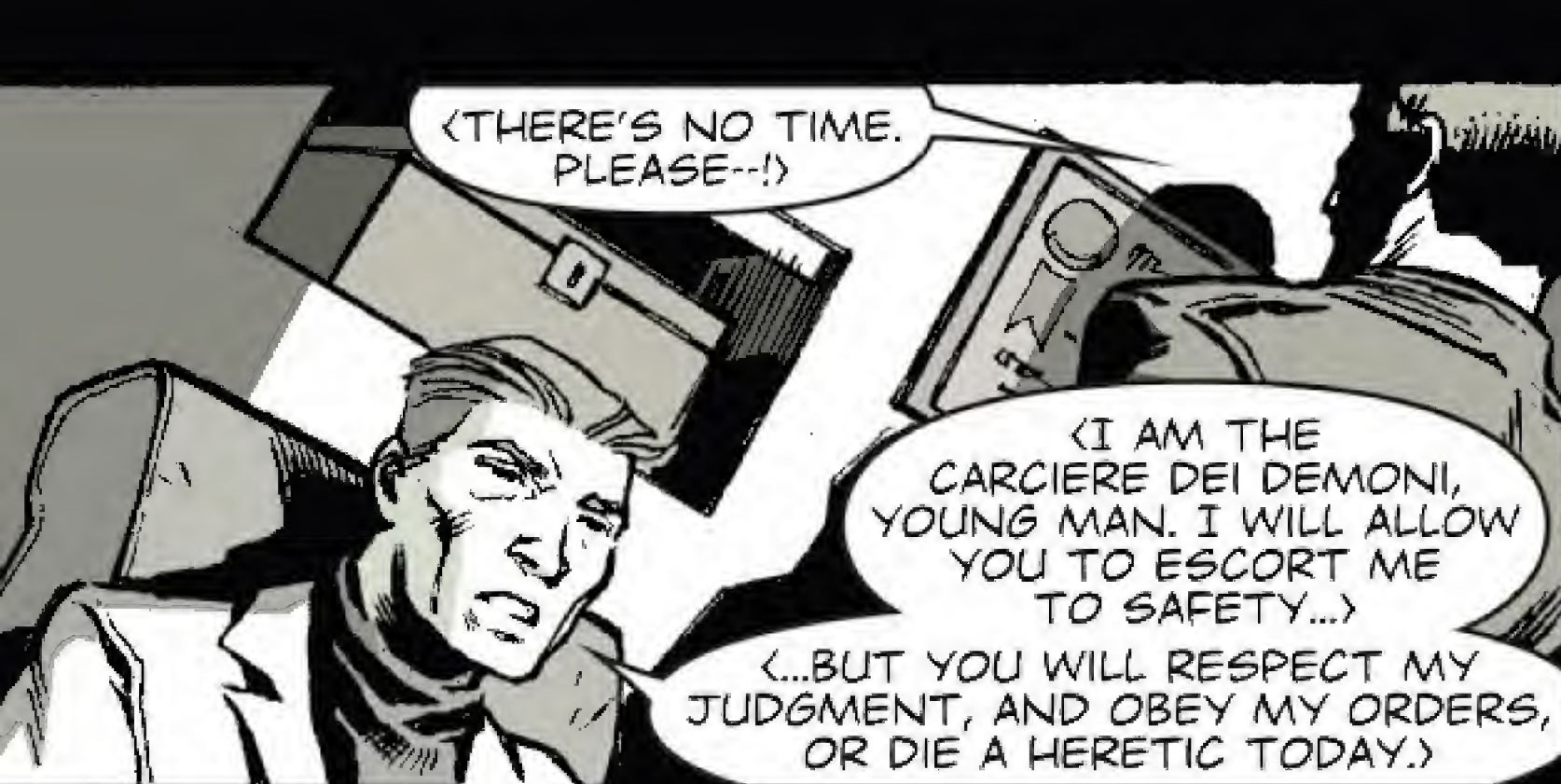
THAT'S...
THAT'S
FINE.

THE
DOORS.

KREEEEENNK

I BID THEE
WELCOME, CROW
SISTERS.





<THERE'S NO TIME.
PLEASE--!>

<I AM THE
CARCIERE DEI DEMONI,
YOUNG MAN. I WILL ALLOW
YOU TO ESCORT ME
TO SAFETY...>

<...BUT YOU WILL RESPECT MY
JUDGMENT, AND OBEY MY ORDERS,
OR DIE A HERETIC TODAY.>



<IT WOULD BE FOOLISH
FOR THE CHURCH TO STORE
EVERY SACRED ITEM WITHIN
A SINGLE RELIQUARY.>

<IF THE VATICAN
AND CESTUS DEI ARE TRULY
CRUMBLING, THE SAFETY OF
THIS PARTICULAR TREASURE
IS ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL.>



<I HAVE JAILED
COUNTLESS DEMONS
IN MY TIME, BOY. WITH
THIS BLADE, I COULD
IMPRISON THE DEVIL
HIMSELF...>

<...OR PRESERVE THE BLESSED
SOUL OF A LIVING SAINT.>



<I WOULDN'T
EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTA--
AAIIIEEAAH!!>



Hm.

WHO WILL
PRESERVE YOUR
SOUL, FAUSTO
SABATINI?

THE
DAGGER. WE
REQUIRE IT.

Hm.



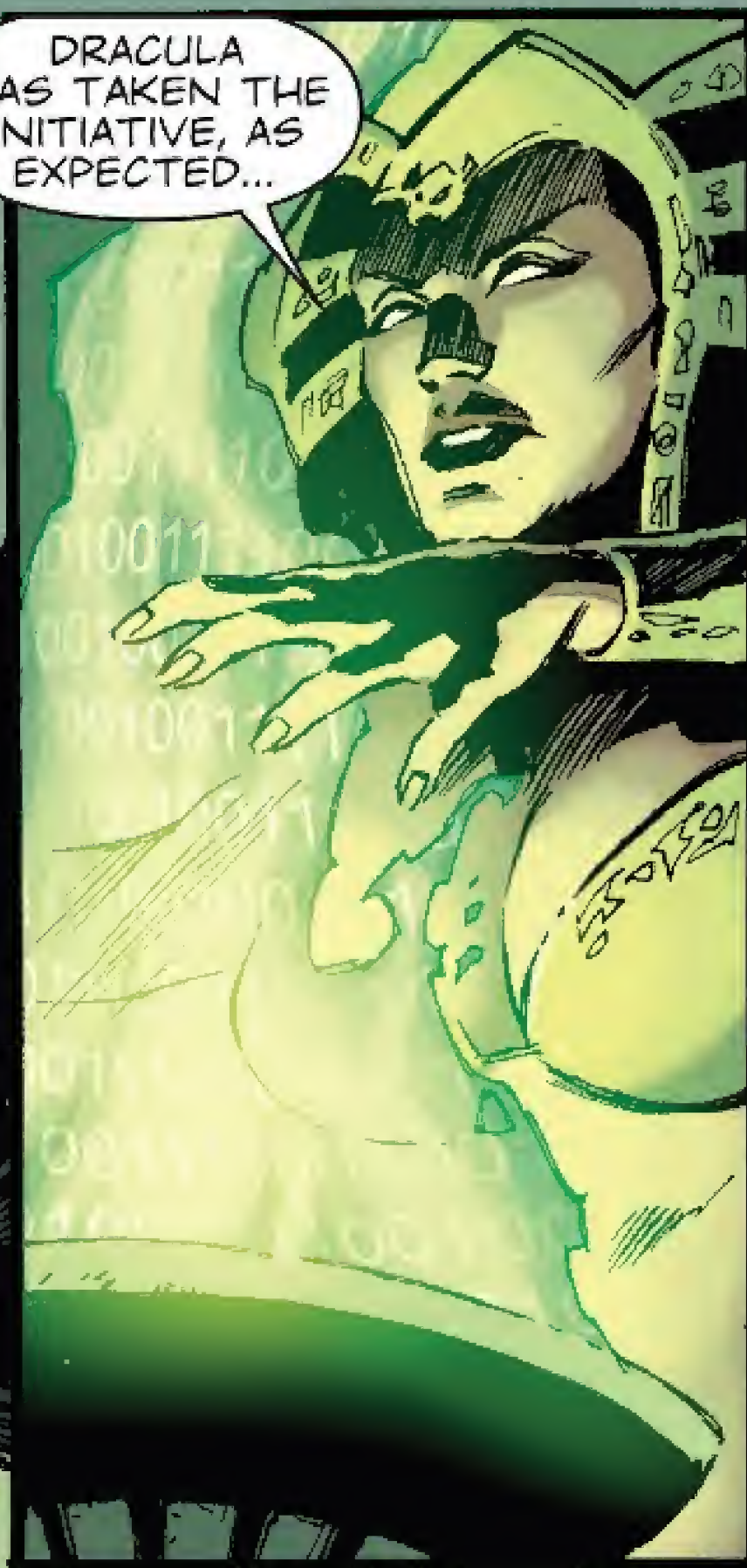
YOU
TRANSFORM
MAYHEM INTO
BALLET, AND
I APPLAUD
YOU.

YOUR
ELEGANCE WILL
SURELY BE A WELCOME
COUNTERPOINT TO THE
BRUTAL METHODOLOGY
OF MY NEW FIELD
MARSHAL.





DRACULA
HAS TAKEN THE
INITIATIVE, AS
EXPECTED...



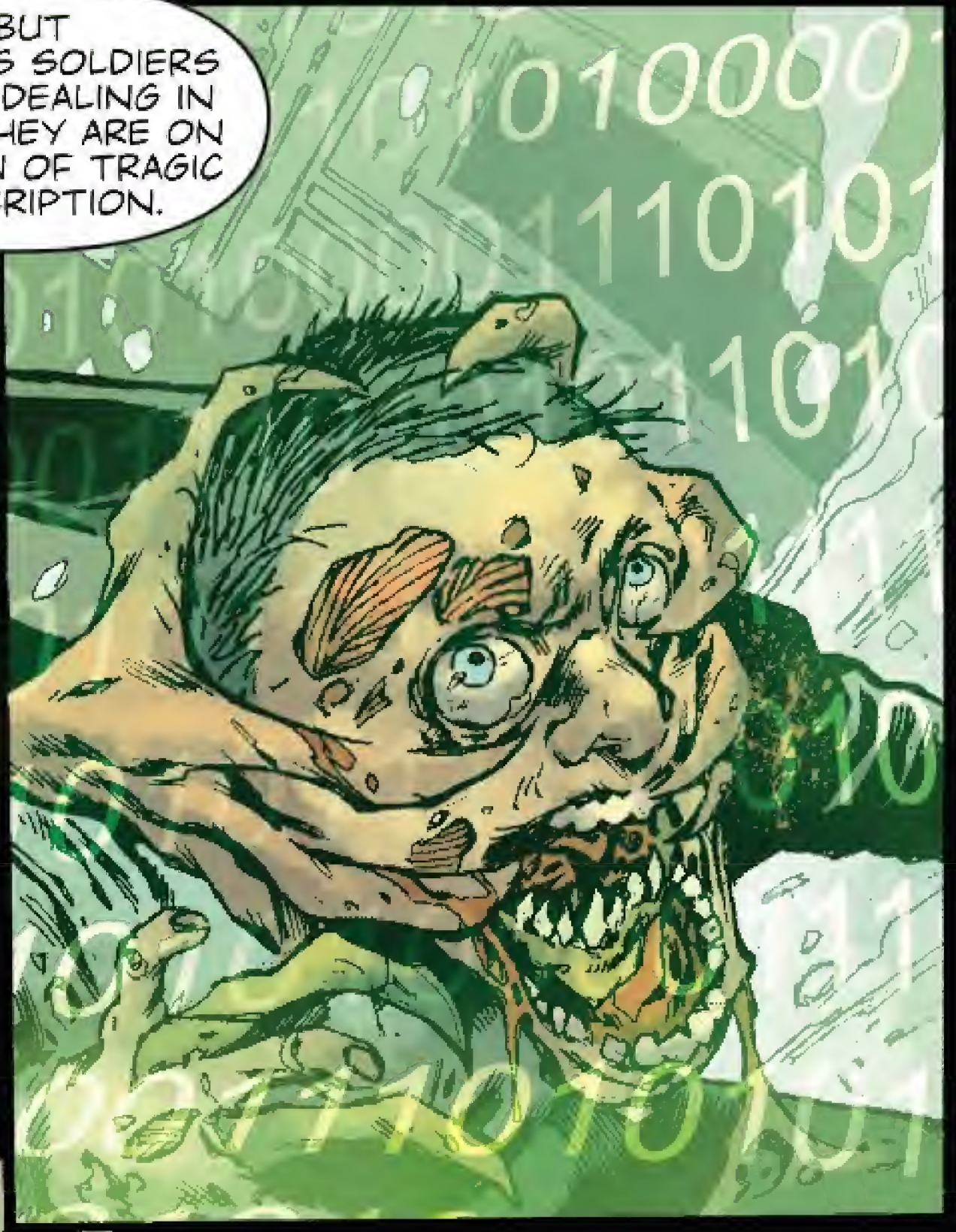
...AND SO
BEGINS THE
WAR BETWEEN
CHAOS AND
ORDER.



CLEARLY,
THE DARK PRINCE
WILL NOT BE SATISFIED
BY THE SLAUGHTER OF
INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN,
AND CHILDREN.



...BUT
DRACULA'S SOLDIERS
ARE NOT DEALING IN
MERCY. THEY ARE ON
A MISSION OF TRAGIC
CONSCRIPTION.



I'M NOT
WAITING FOR
THIS TO GET
WORSE.

WE'LL START
WITH THESE
BASTARDS, AND
FIGHT OUR WAY
TO DRACULA'S
FRONT DOOR
IF WE HAVE
TO.





THE MIDWEST IS OUR TERRITORY. THE THREE OF US CAN HANDLE THIS.



"THREE," PANTHA? ARE YOU FORGETTING SOMEONE?

I THINK WE BOTH KNOW THAT ONE OF YOU IS EQUAL TO THREE OF US, PENDRAGON. KEEP YOURSELF AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT STRIKE.



I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE ALL DOING, BUT YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO JUST SIT BACK AND NOT FIGHT.

NO ONE EXPECTS THAT. THIS IS ABOUT BEING PREPARED FOR ESCALATION.

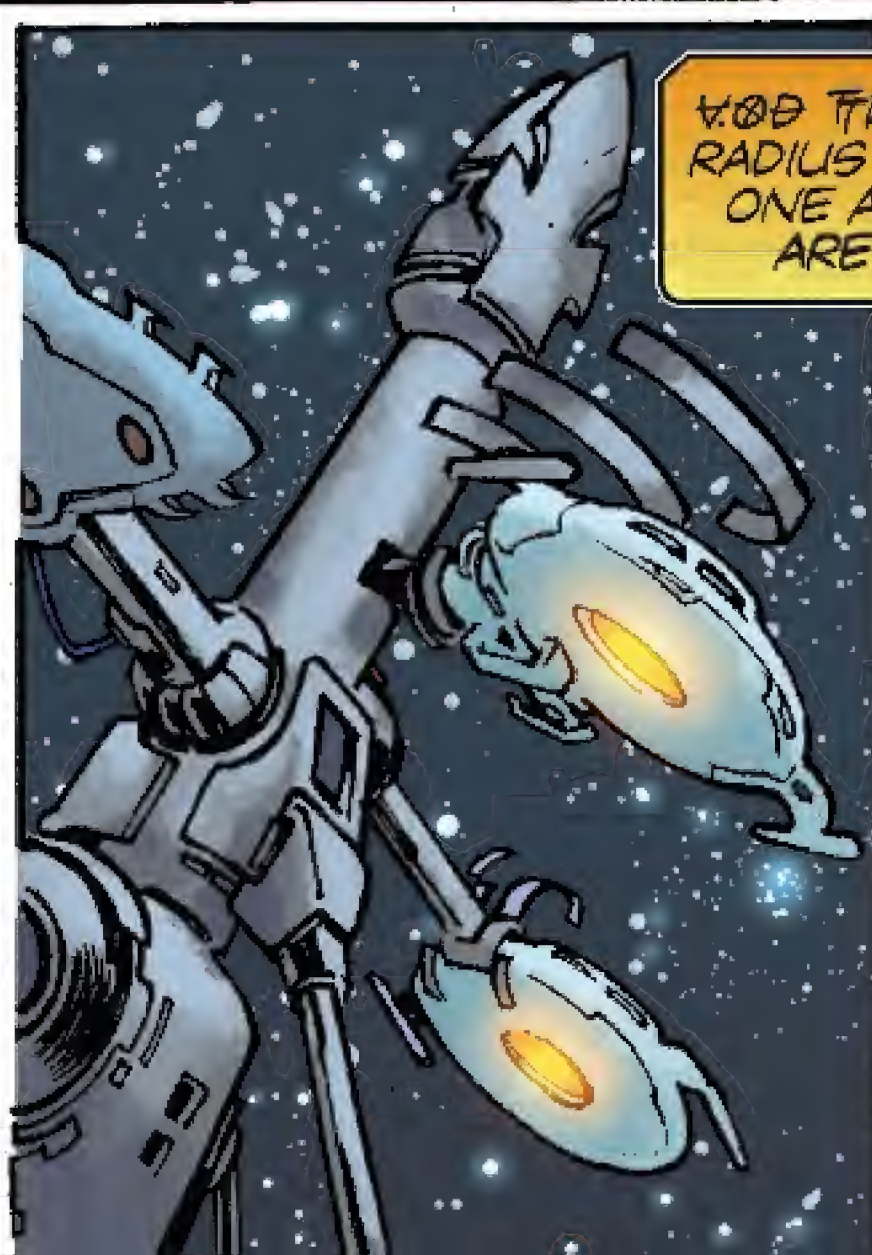


NO ONE IN THIS ROOM FEELS LIKE YOU NEED TO BE PROTECTED, VAMPIRELLA...

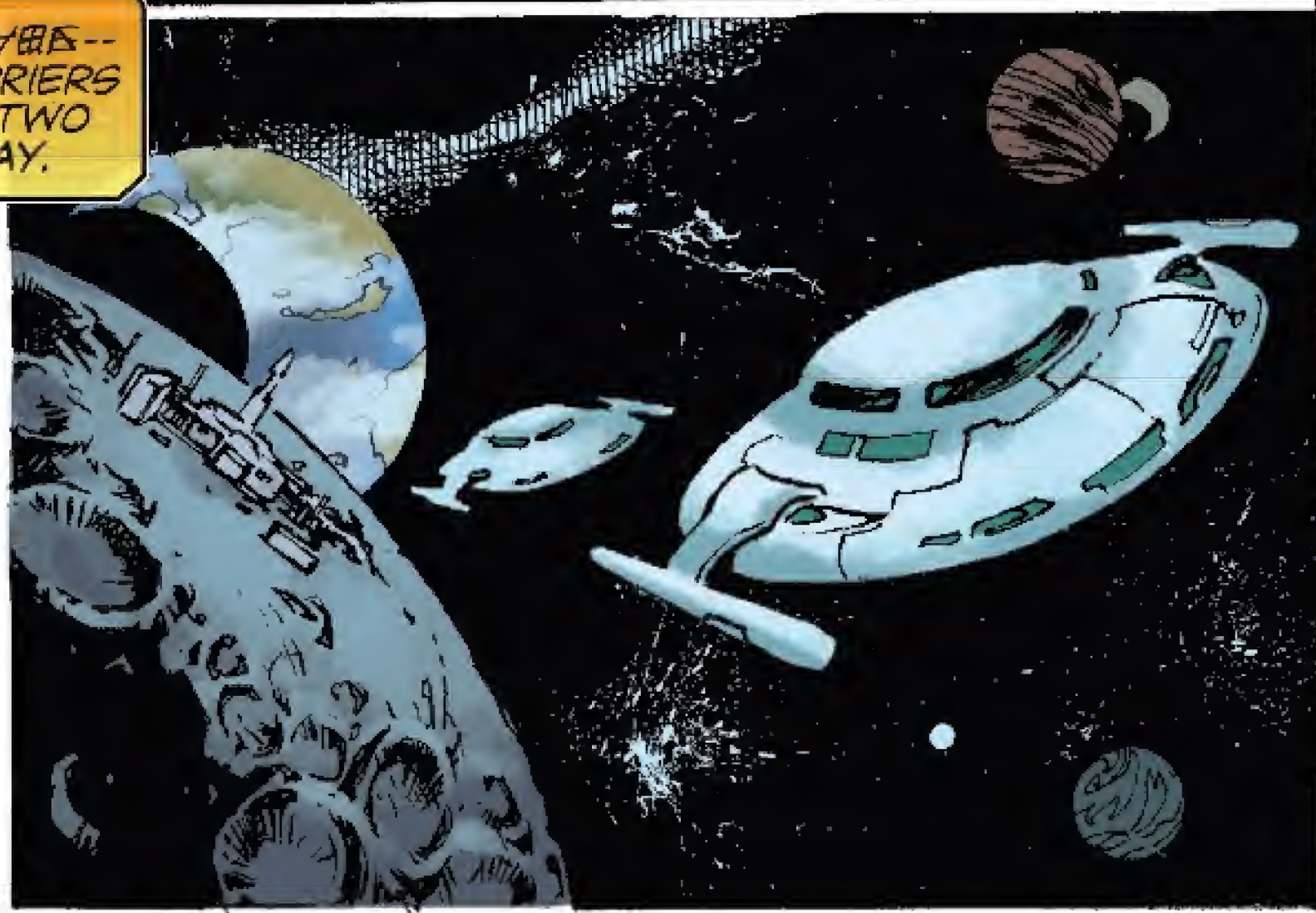
...BUT DRACULA WANTS TO TAKE YOU DOWN. NOT JUST KILL YOU, BUT MAKE YOU SUFFER AND HURT IN THE WORST WAYS POSSIBLE...

...BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT YOU CAN BEAT HIM.

IT'S OUR JOB TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT ON THE FRONT LINE OF THIS FIGHT WHEN HE FINALLY SHOWS HIMSELF.



V.O.B. FREE V.B.S--
RADIUS CARRIERS
ONE AND TWO
ARE AWAY.





WE OF
THE PARLIAMENT OF
DEMONS HAVE ASKED
YOU HERE FOR ONE
REASON ONLY, DRACULA.





...IT IS OUR WISH
THAT YOU SHOULD
LEAD THE CHARGE TO
REMOVE THE MAD GOD
FROM HIS INCREASINGLY
IRRELEVANT SEAT
OF POWER...

...AND ACCEPT
THE RULE OF THE
BLACK CROWN YOURSELF,
AS A REWARD FOR YOUR
LOYALTY TO THE
PARLIAMENT.



ОУМЯКОП, СИБЕРИЯ

GLORY
AWAITS YOU.
WHY DO YOU
RESIST THE
GLORY?!

YOU WILL
BECOME--

RRRGH!

TA
AAK

YOU SPEAK OF
GLORY, BUT YOU
KNOW NOTHING
OF IT.

WE ARE THE
SISTERS OF THE
SCARLET LEGION. WE
LIVE AND DIE FOR
THE ONE TRUE
GLORY.

GO! GO!



SUBMIT TO
THE HANDS OF
CHANGE NOW,
SLATTURNS...

...OR MEET
YOUR END SHAMED
BY A GOD THAT
WILL NEVER ANSWER
YOUR PRAYERS
FOR DEATH.

BROTHERS
AND SISTERS
OF THE BEAST!
STAND WITH
ME!



TRINITY
FORMATION!
ON ME!

ONWARD!





--SEND
ONE OF THE
ANDROIDS TO
HELP US CLEAR
A PATH.

AS
YOU WISH,
SISTER.

MECH-ONE, BREAK
OFF AND HELP SISTER
BRITTANY! THE REST
OF YOU, KEEP PUSHING
THEM BACK...



...BECAUSE THE HANDFUL OF
PEOPLE WE'RE EXTRACTING
FROM THIS CITY MAY VERY
WELL BE THE LAST OF
THE LIVING!



SISTER
DIANA! WE'RE
COMING!

LOOK AT
YOUR SISTER
NOW.

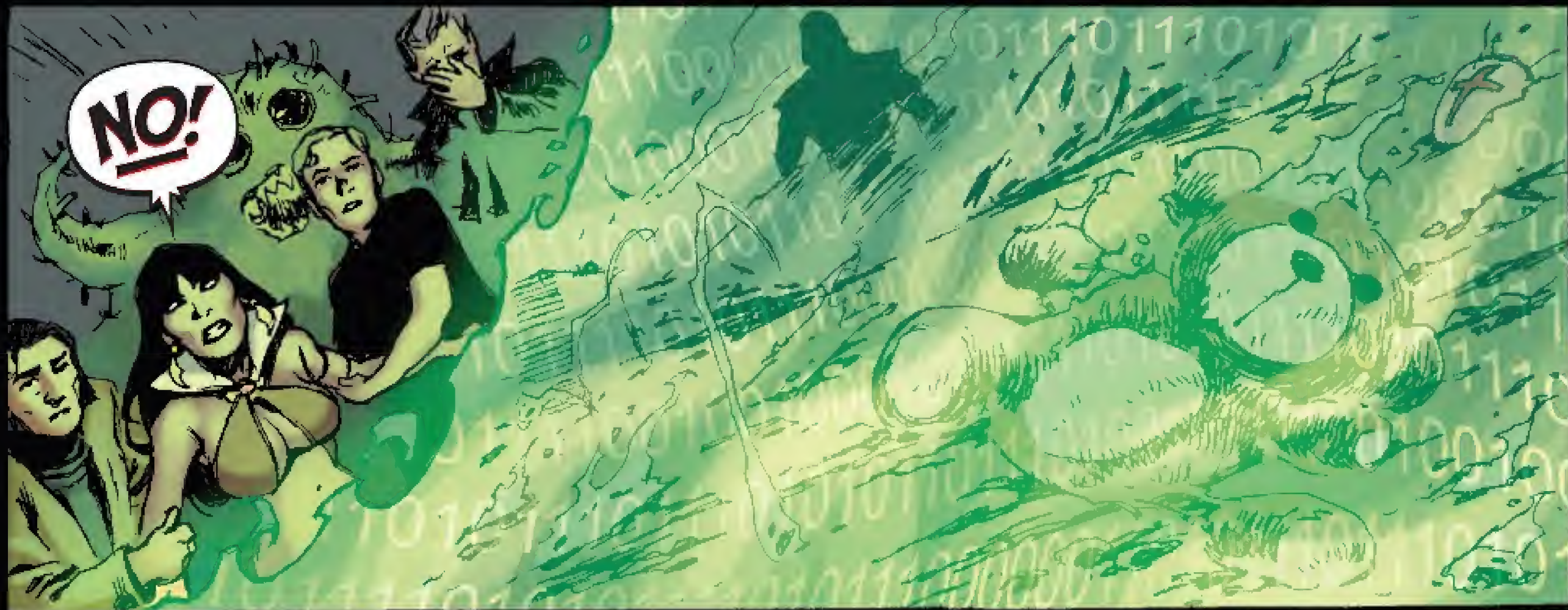
HER
EYES HAVE SEEN
THE GLORY THAT
YOU WOULD HAVE
DENIED HER...







KOON



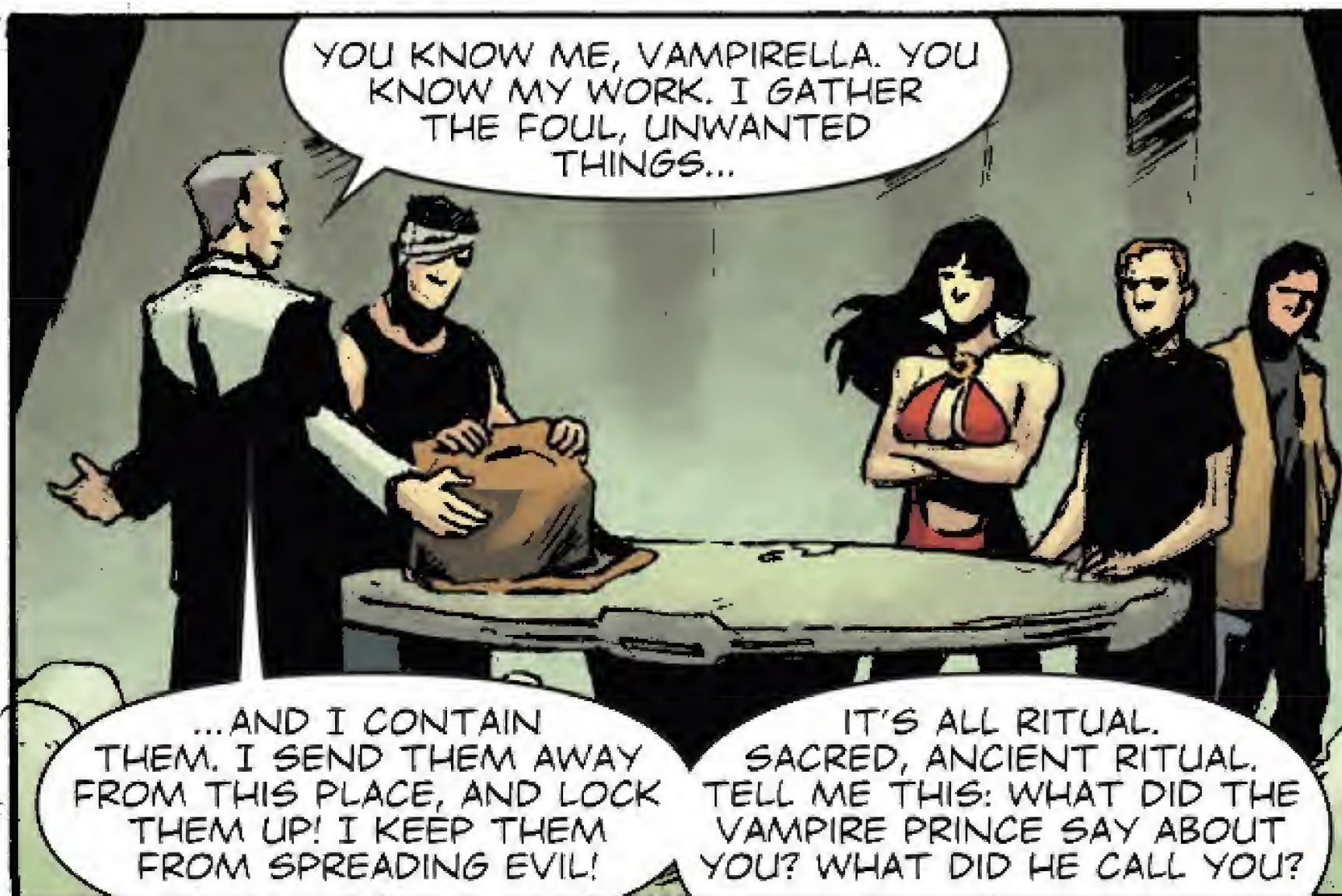
(FOR THE FULL STORY ON PANTHA'S TEAM, CHECK OUT PANTHA #5!)





GREGORIO,
THE ITEMS.

YES,
SIGNORE.



YOU KNOW ME, VAMPIRELLA. YOU
KNOW MY WORK. I GATHER
THE FOUL, UNWANTED
THINGS...

...AND I CONTAIN
THEM. I SEND THEM AWAY
FROM THIS PLACE, AND LOCK
THEM UP! I KEEP THEM
FROM SPREADING EVIL!

IT'S ALL RITUAL.
SACRED, ANCIENT RITUAL.
TELL ME THIS: WHAT DID THE
VAMPIRE PRINCE SAY ABOUT
YOU? WHAT DID HE CALL YOU?



A BELL.
DRACULA SAID
I WAS A BELL.
WHY...?

WHY,
INDEED!

HOW HAVE YOU CARRIED
OUT YOUR WORK HUNTING MONSTERS WITH SUCH AN OBVIOUSLY
RUDIMENTARY UNDERSTANDING OF EXORCISM AND BANISHMENT?!



DRACULA
AND HIS ILK ARE
BOUND BY THE SAME
RULES AND LAWS OF
SACRED METAPHYSICS
AND COSMIC
GEOMETRY THAT ALL
OTHER ENTITIES
OBEY...

...BUT THE
LEVELS OF POWER
BEHIND THOSE RULES
MUST BE ADJUSTED
TO A FAR GREATER
DEGREE.

WE WILL
EXCOMMUNICATE
DRACULA FROM THE
EARTHLY PLANE BY
EVOKING THIS
SACRED RITE:



BOOK.

BELL.

AND
CANDLE.

TO BE CONTINUED!

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To all things an
end, even my reign.
I do not fear it.
I embrace it.



Am I not the
Mad God
Chaos?



Am I not so mighty
a leviathan...

...that entire realities
will be **drowned** in my
wake as I sink beneath
the sea of stars?



I do not fear
death...

...for it has been
known since my **first**
day that the cosmos will
demand a considerable
fare for my
passage...

...and that
is not **my** debt
to pay.

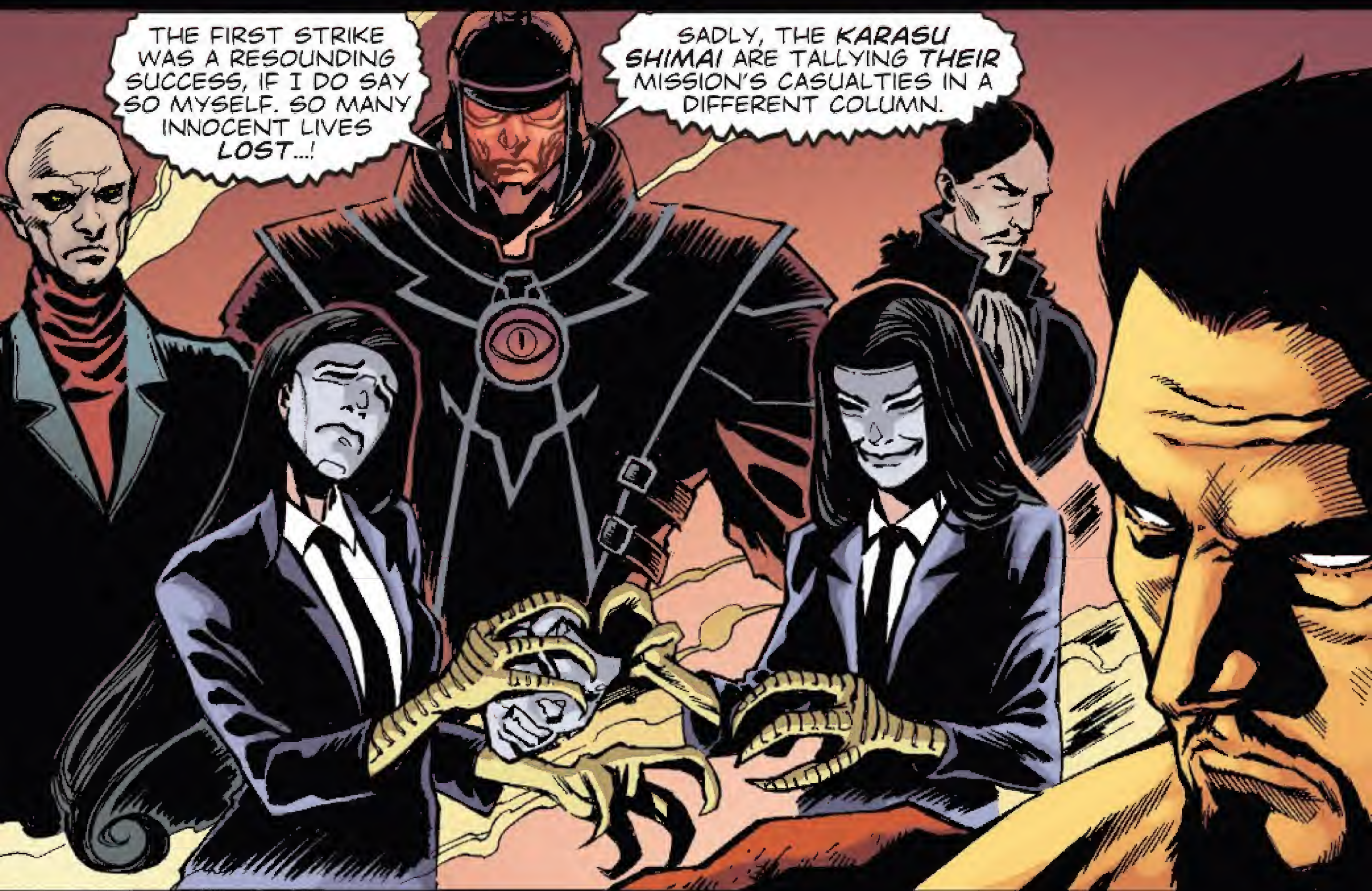
DEEP WITHIN THE CHERSKY RANGE
SIBERIA, RUSSIA



LORD
DRACULA.

THE FIRST STRIKE
WAS A RESOUNDING
SUCCESS, IF I DO SAY
SO MYSELF. SO MANY
INNOCENT LIVES
LOST...!

SADLY, THE KARASU
SHIMAI ARE TALLYING THEIR
MISSION'S CASUALTIES IN A
DIFFERENT COLUMN.



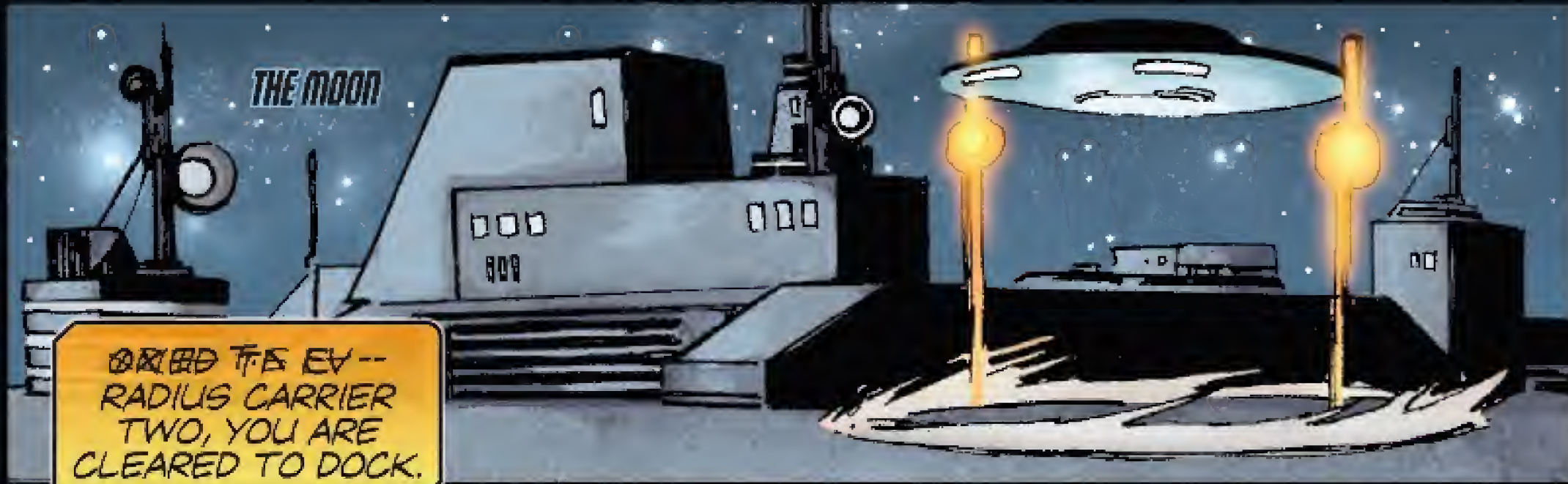
MY
CONDOLENCES,
SISTERS...

...BUT YOU
MUST TRANSFORM
YOUR SORROWS INTO
THE VERY MODEL OF
RIGHTEOUS FURY.



CALL FORTH EVERY
SOLDIER IN MY
ARMY OF HORRORS,
VON KREIST.

OUR SEIGE
OF THE MORTAL
WORLD BEGINS
IMMEDIATELY.



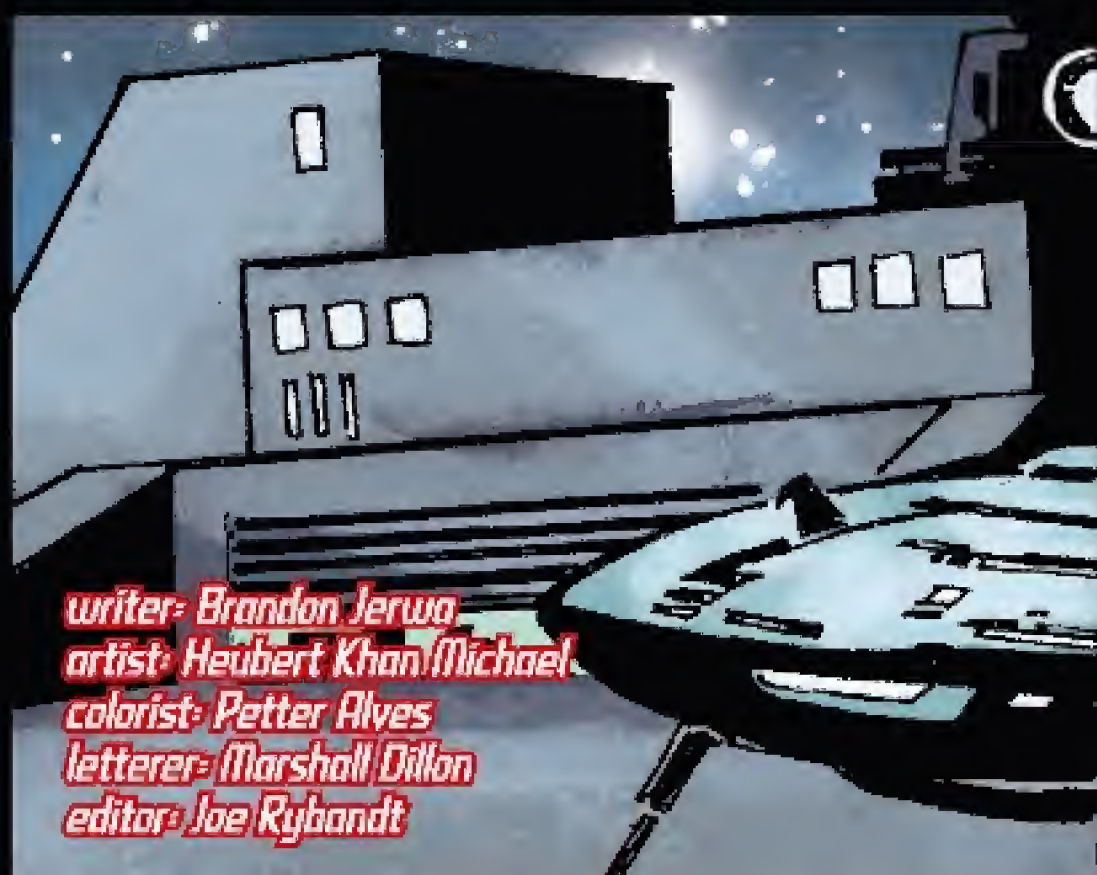
ORRBD TFS EV--
RADIUS CARRIER
TWO, YOU ARE
CLEARED TO DOCK.

VAMPIRELLA in: HELL ON EARTH

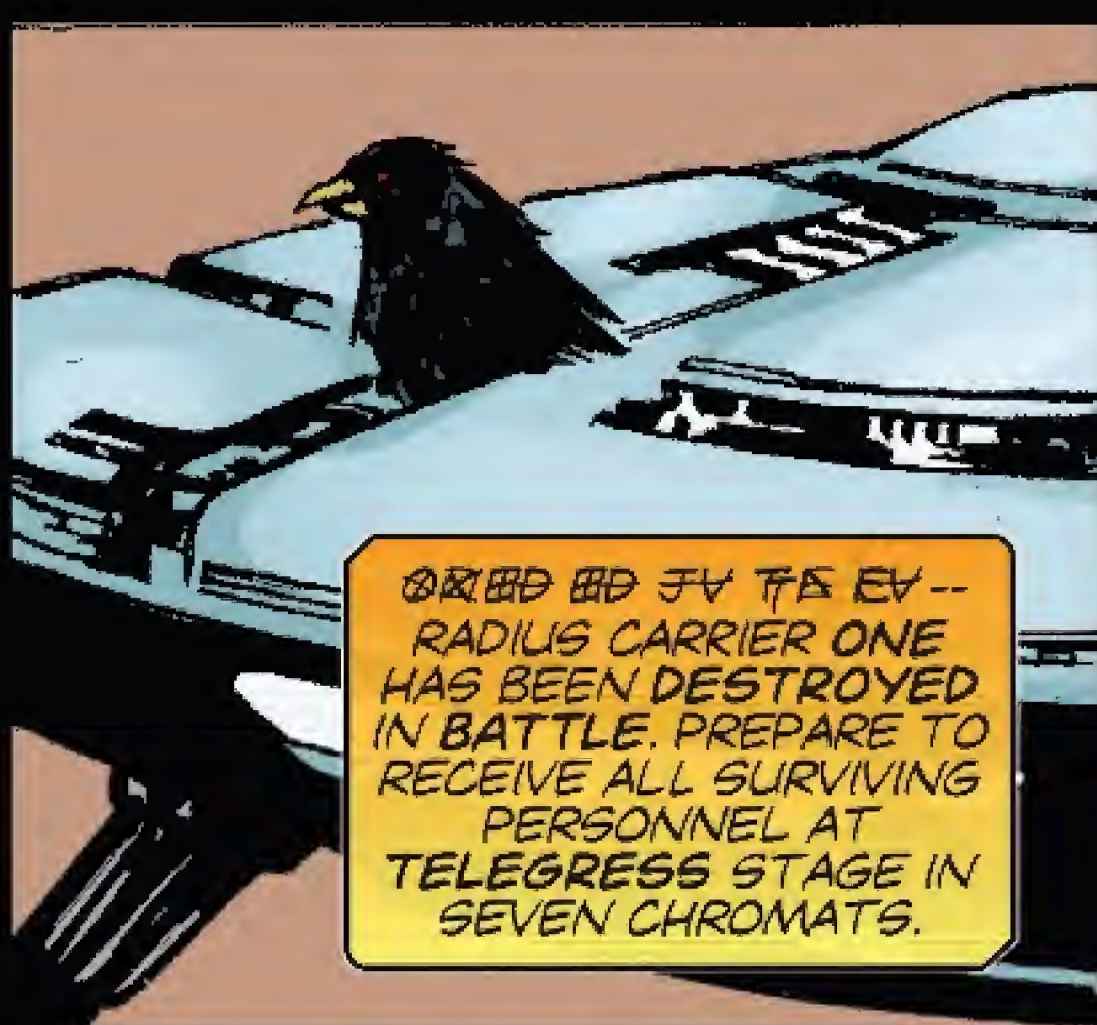
ORRBD TFS EV BD JV R--
RADIUS CARRIER TWO HAS
CLEARED DOCKING. PREPARE
FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR
AND SYSTEM SCANS.



CHAPTER 2:
THE END IS THE BEGINNING IS THE END



writer: Brandon Jerwa
artist: Heubert Khan/Michael
colorist: Petter Alves
letterer: Marshall Dillon
editor: Joe Rybandt



ORRBD BD JV TFS EV--
RADIUS CARRIER ONE
HAS BEEN DESTROYED
IN BATTLE. PREPARE TO
RECEIVE ALL SURVIVING
PERSONNEL AT
TELEGRESS STAGE IN
SEVEN CHROMATS.



VEP
VEP
VEP
VEP
VEP
VEP



WE...WE
FAILED
YOU.
NO,
BRITTANY.
YOU DID
EVERYTHING
YOU--

JVRBD EVTFS--
AGENTS OF ORDER,
ASSEMBLE FOR A
BRIEFING WITH THE
CONJURESS
IMMEDIATELY.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I SHOULD HAVE
SEEN THIS COMING.

I STAYED IN THE SHADOWS FOR A LONG
TIME, AND TRIED TO LET THE WORLD
FORGET ABOUT ME. IT'S SOMETHING
I HAVE TO DO SOMETIMES.

WHEN I FINALLY STEPPED
BACK INTO THE LIGHT, IT
WAS HERE, IN SEATTLE.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE
EVERYTHING WENT TO
HELL AT A HIGH RATE OF
SPEED. THAT'S ANOTHER
TRADEMARK OF MY LIFE.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE
MOST RECENT VERSION OF
MY LIFE STARTED HERE...

...AND THIS IS
OBVIOUSLY WHERE
DRACULA HOPES
TO SEE IT END.

I THINK
SHAKESPEARE
SAID IT BEST:

#@%
THAT NOISE.

VON
KREIST!

AH! ICH
WUSSTE, DASS
ICH SIE ZUERST
HÄTTE--





TEAM TWO,
ARE YOU ON
THE GROUND?

BRITTANY, THIS
IS GREGORIO.
WE'RE NEAR THE
WATERFRONT--

--AND JUST
IN TIME FOR
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE.

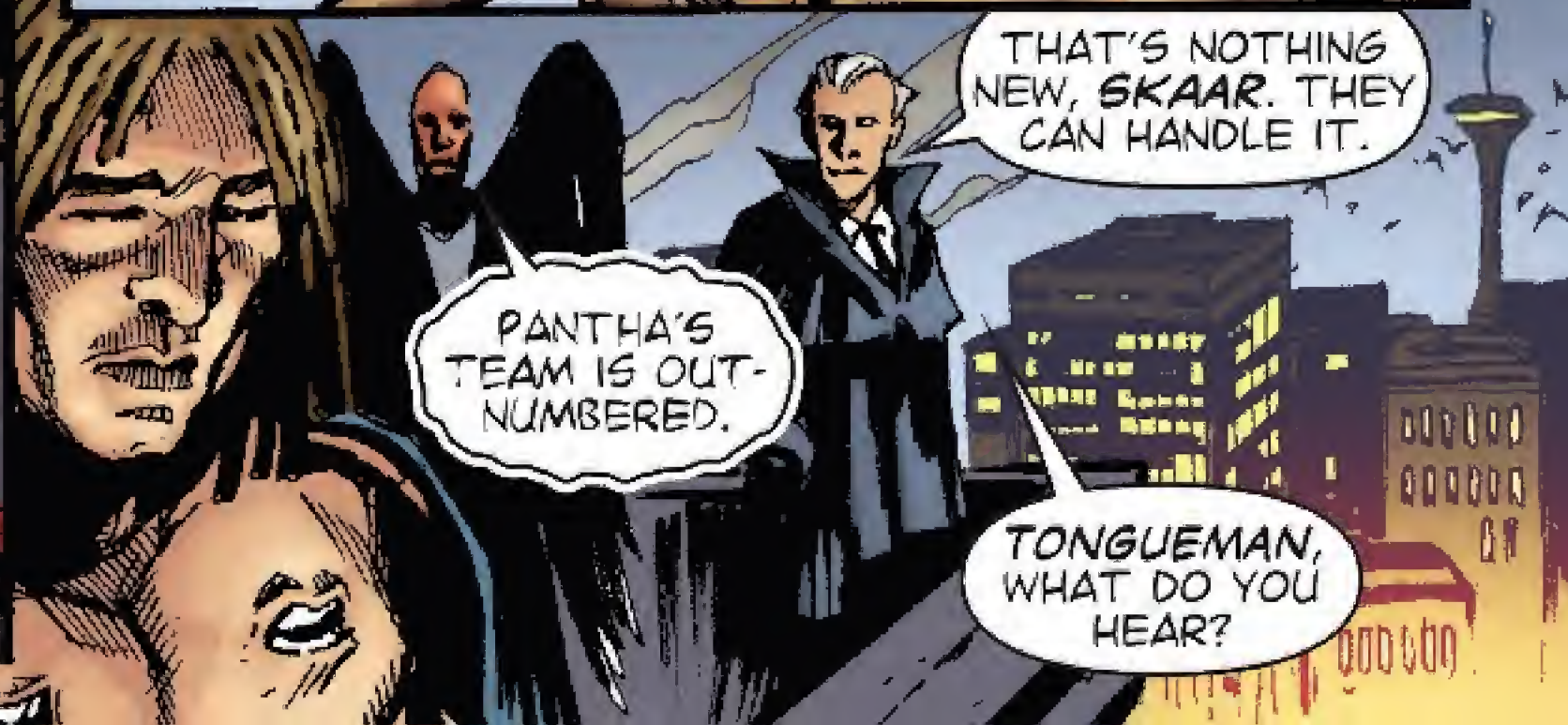


FOUR LEGS AND
FANGS? FINALLY,
AN EVEN FIGHT.

"EVEN
FIGHT"?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN
HOW TO COUNT?!

SIGH: PICK
A TARGET...



THAT'S NOTHING
NEW, SKAAR. THEY
CAN HANDLE IT.

PANTHA'S
TEAM IS OUT-
NUMBERED.

TONGUEMAN,
WHAT DO YOU
HEAR?



"I'M NOT HEARING MUCH OF ANYTHING ACROSS THE PSYCHIC NETWORK RIGHT NOW. IT'S ALL STATIC."



"TOO MANY THOUGHTS IN THE ETHER; I'M ONLY GETTING FLASHES OF PANIC, TERROR, AND SHEER HATRED."



DO YOU FEEL THAT?

DOES IT HURT?!

AAAAAGGGH!

SHAK
POONK

YOU REVEL IN HIS PAIN. YOU'RE ALREADY A MONSTER, VAMPIRELLA...

...AND I CAN HELP YOU TRANSFORM COMPLETELY.



swipe

ORLOK, NO--!



RADIUS CARRIER, I'VE GOT A BLOODSUCKER IN CLOSE PROXIMITY!





VAMPIRELLA!

SHRAZAK



ARE YOU
INJURED?

ALWAYS...
BUT I'LL
BE FINE,
THANKS.



YOU GAVE
AWAY YOUR
SECRET, VON
KREIST.

SHRAZAK

YOU WARNED
ORLOK NOT TO
KILL ME, BUT IT
WASN'T BECAUSE
YOU WANTED TO
DO IT YOURSELF.



NNNKKKK

YOU'RE
NOT ALLOWED
TO KILL ME,
ARE YOU?

YOU MUST
REALLY BE AFRAID
OF DRACULA. I
ALMOST FEEL BAD
FOR YOU.

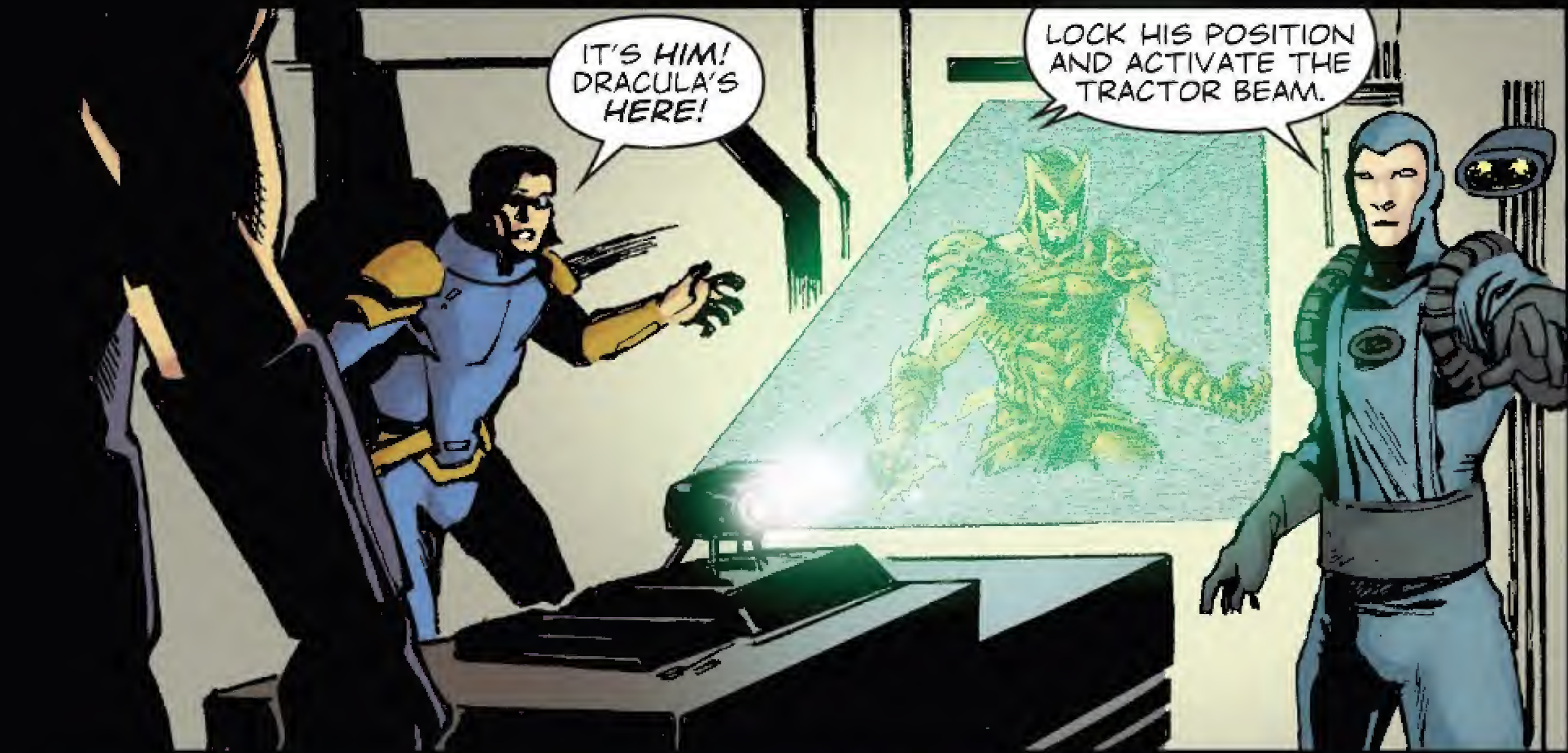


YOU SHOULD
ENVY HIM.

IF HE LIVES
TO SEE THE DAWN,
VON KREIST WILL HAVE
EARNED HIS PLACE
AS MY BLOOD
GENERAL...

...AND THE
SUBJECTS OF MY
NEW KINGDOM WILL
COUNT HIM AMONG
THE LEGENDS FOR
HIS PART IN OUR
VICTORY TODAY.









I'M WILLING TO DIE TODAY, BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE GOING WITH--

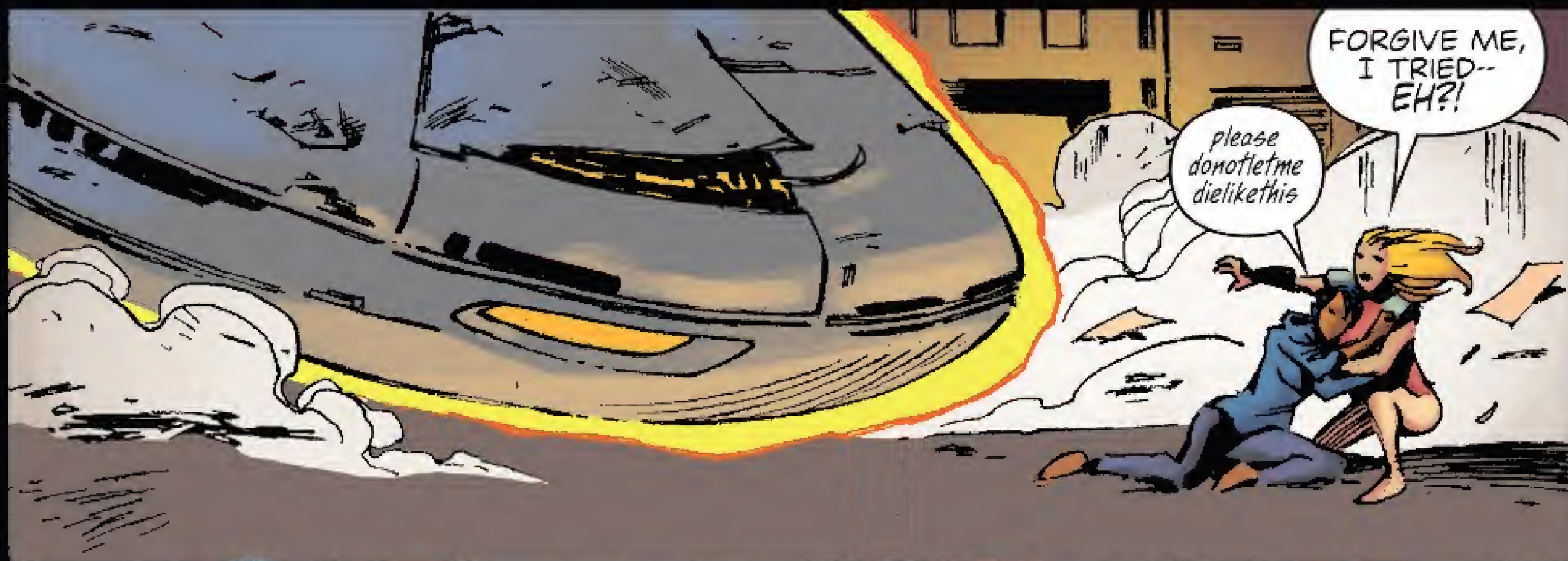
--OH, DAMN.



THE CARRIER'S COMING DOWN!

SISTER BRITTANY--!

MERCIFUL GOD, LET ME BE FAST ENOUGH...



FORGIVE ME, I TRIED-- EH?!

please donotletme dielikethis



SCIENCE WILL ALWAYS PALE IN COMPARISON TO SORCERY, EH, PENDRAGON?

THIS IS A POOR TIME TO PROVE THE POINT...

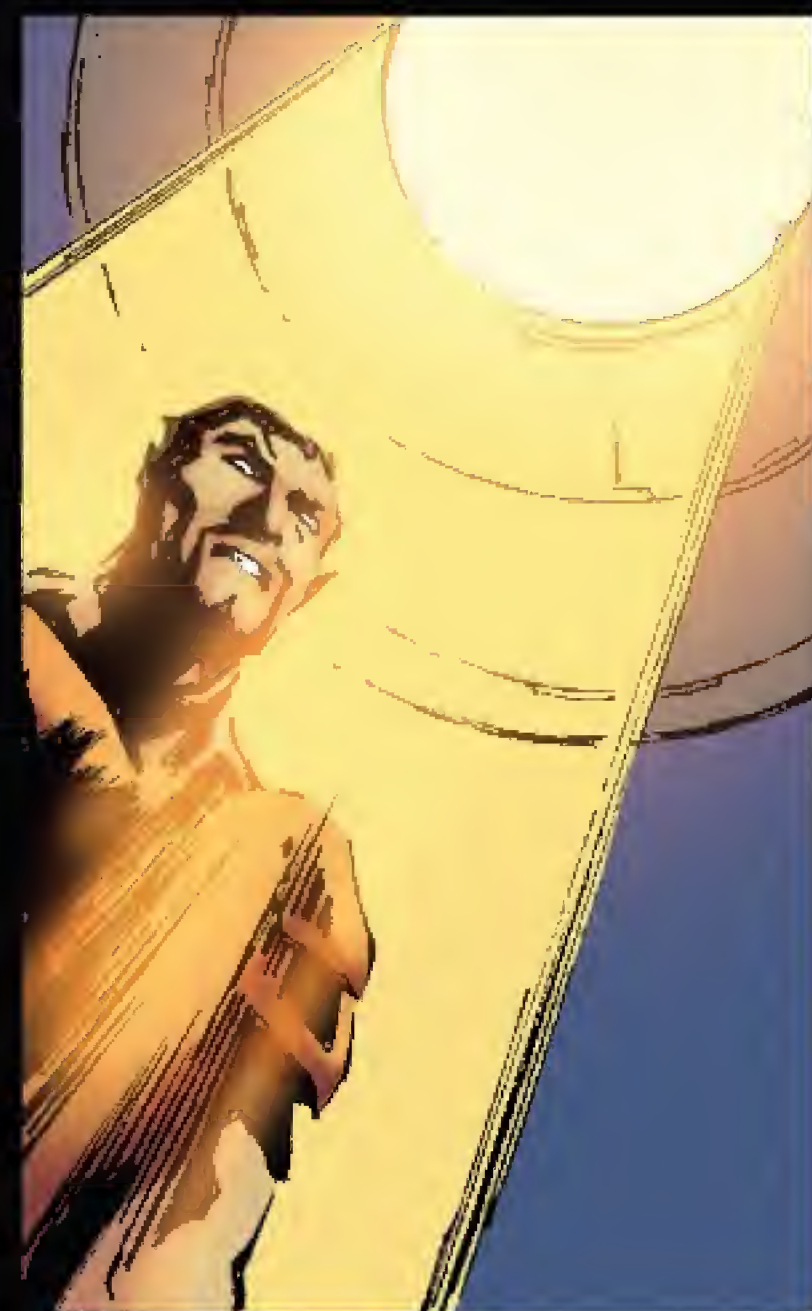
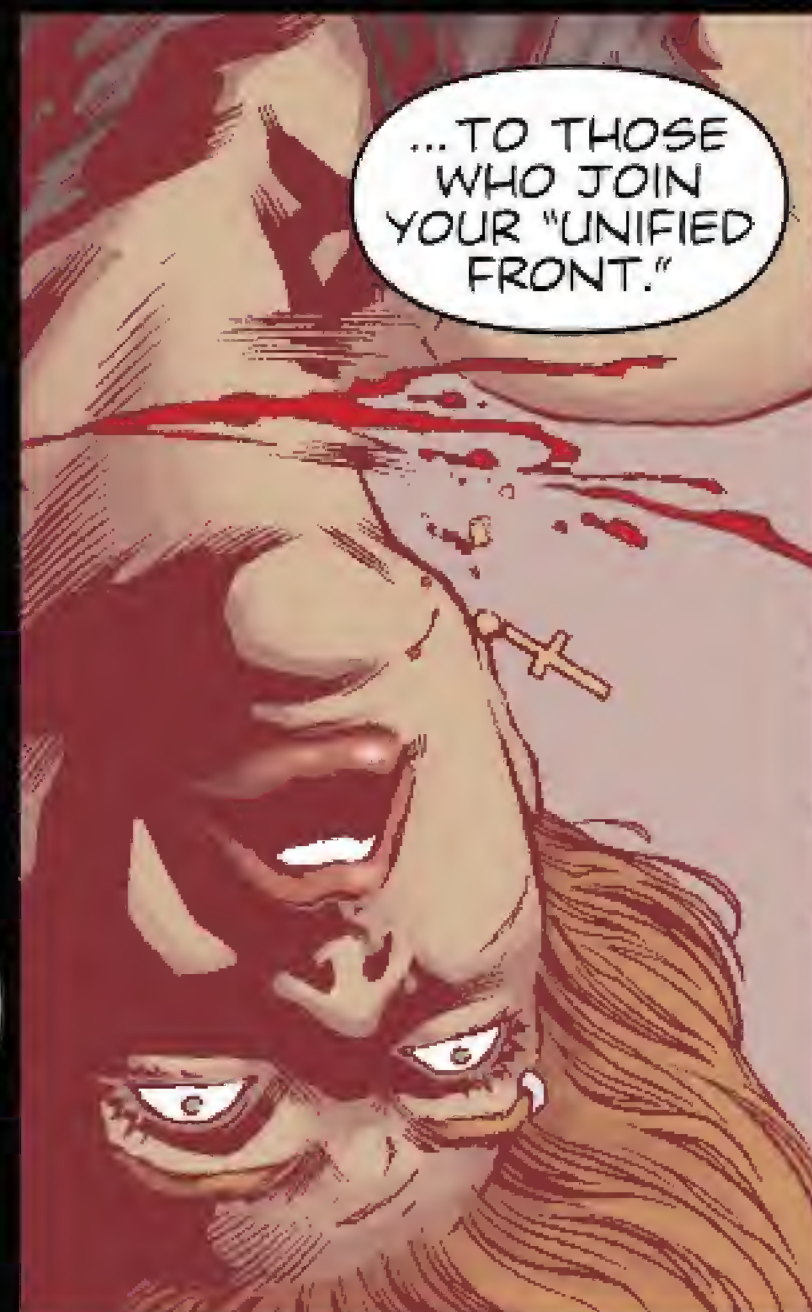
...BUT I DON'T DISAGREE.



CAN I UNCLENCH NOW?

FEEL FREE. THE CARRIER SEEMS TO BE DOING EXACTLY THAT.

BRIP-BOOP
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE



SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER

WE WILL HAVE ONE CHANCE FOR THE EXORCISM TO SUCCEED. IT CANNOT BE REPEATED.

YOU ARE ALL AT RISK DURING THE RITUAL.

BUT EVEN IF YOU SUCCEED IN BANISHING DRACULA AND HIS FORCES...

...THERE IS STILL THE MATTER OF KEEPING MISTER VAN HELSING ANCHORED TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

OUTSIDE. NOW.

YOU KNOW I'VE CHEATED DEATH MORE THAN ONCE. I'VE BEEN TO HELL AND BACK...

...AND I'VE BEEN TO HEAVEN. THEY LIKED ME THERE, AND THAT'S WHY I'M BACK HERE. I'M BASICALLY GOD'S SHERIFF NOW.

THERE'S JUST ONE HITCH: THE FLAME OF THAT CANDLE IS MY LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM. THE RITUAL CALLS FOR THE FLAME TO BE SNUFFED.

SABATINI CAN LIGHT IT AGAIN, BUT NOT UNTIL THE RITUAL'S DONE ITS WORK.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. EVERY GOOD THING THAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW IS BECAUSE OF THIS MAN.

THOMAS CRISWELL LOVES YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE EVER COULD, OR EVER WILL.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TODAY, I WANT YOU TO PROMISE YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT.

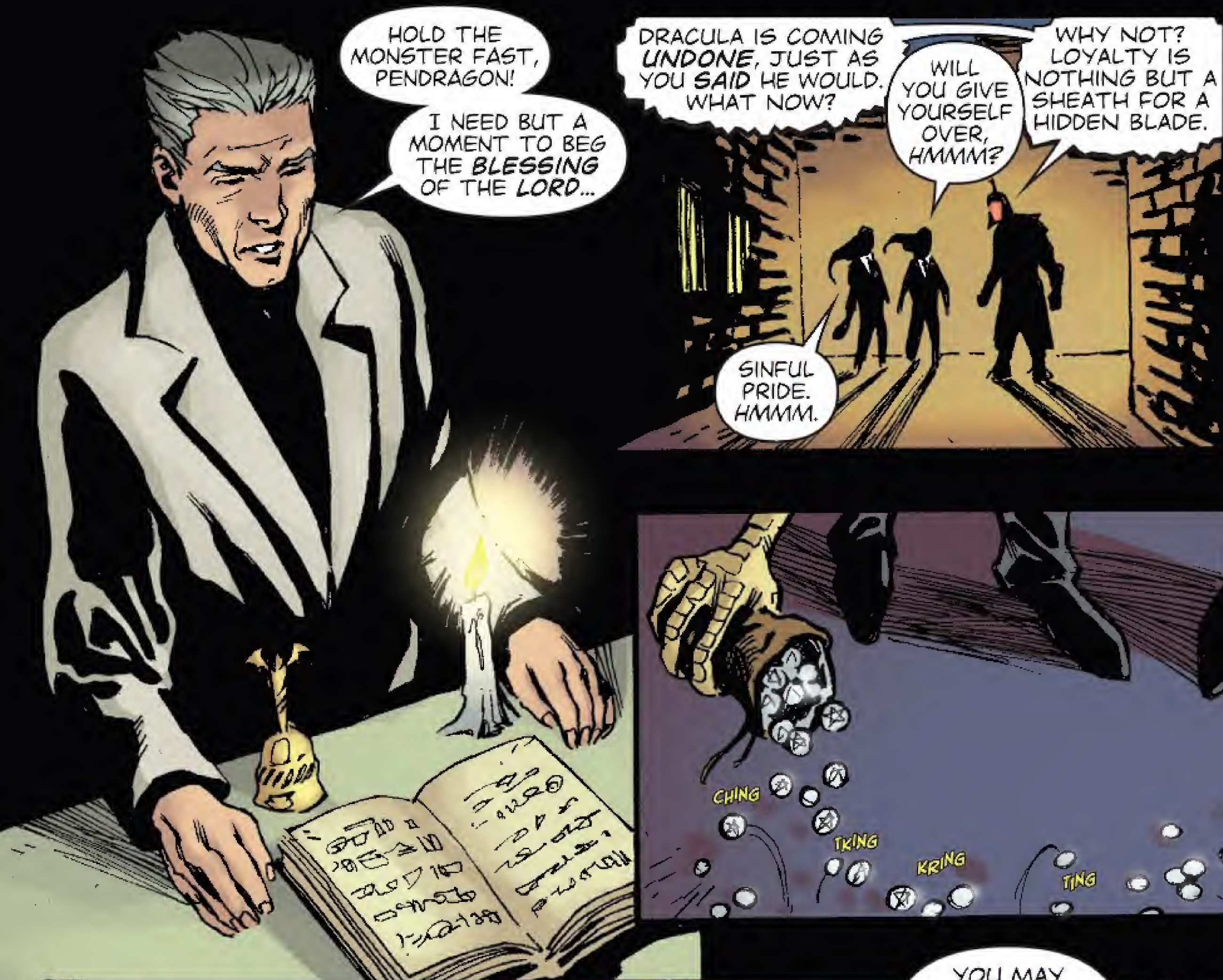
now



GET THEM
UNDER EYELID
WELL BE
GONE

EVERYONE IS
IN POSITION!

START THE
RITUAL!



We separate
him,
together
with his
accomplices
and abettors,
from the precious
body and blood of the
Lord and from the society
of all Christians; we
exclude him from
our *Holy Mother*,
the Church in
Heaven.

and on earth;
we declare him
excommunicate
and *anathema*; we
judge him damned,
with the *Devil* and his
angels and all the
reprobate, to *eternal*
fire until he shall recover
himself from the toils of
the devil and return to
amendment and to
penitence.



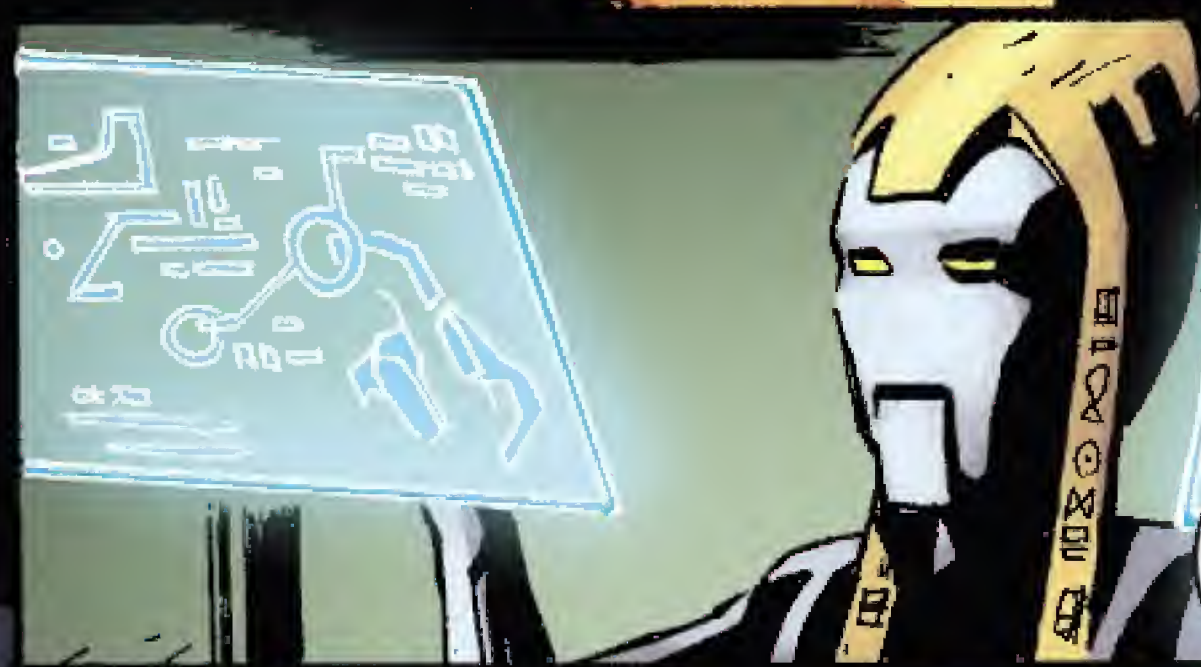


YOU WILL
SEEE THE
LIIMMITS OF
THE GREAT-T
BALANCE
NOW.

YOUR
VICTOORRY ISS
HINGED UPON
A SINGLE
OUTCOME.

BUT.
BUT. MINE.
MINE.

A MILLION
PA-A-ATHS TO
POWERRRRR.



SENSORS SHOW A
CONSIDERABLE DISCHARGE
OF ENERGY IN SIBERIA.
I AM ATTEMPTING TO
IDENTIFY THE
SOURCE.

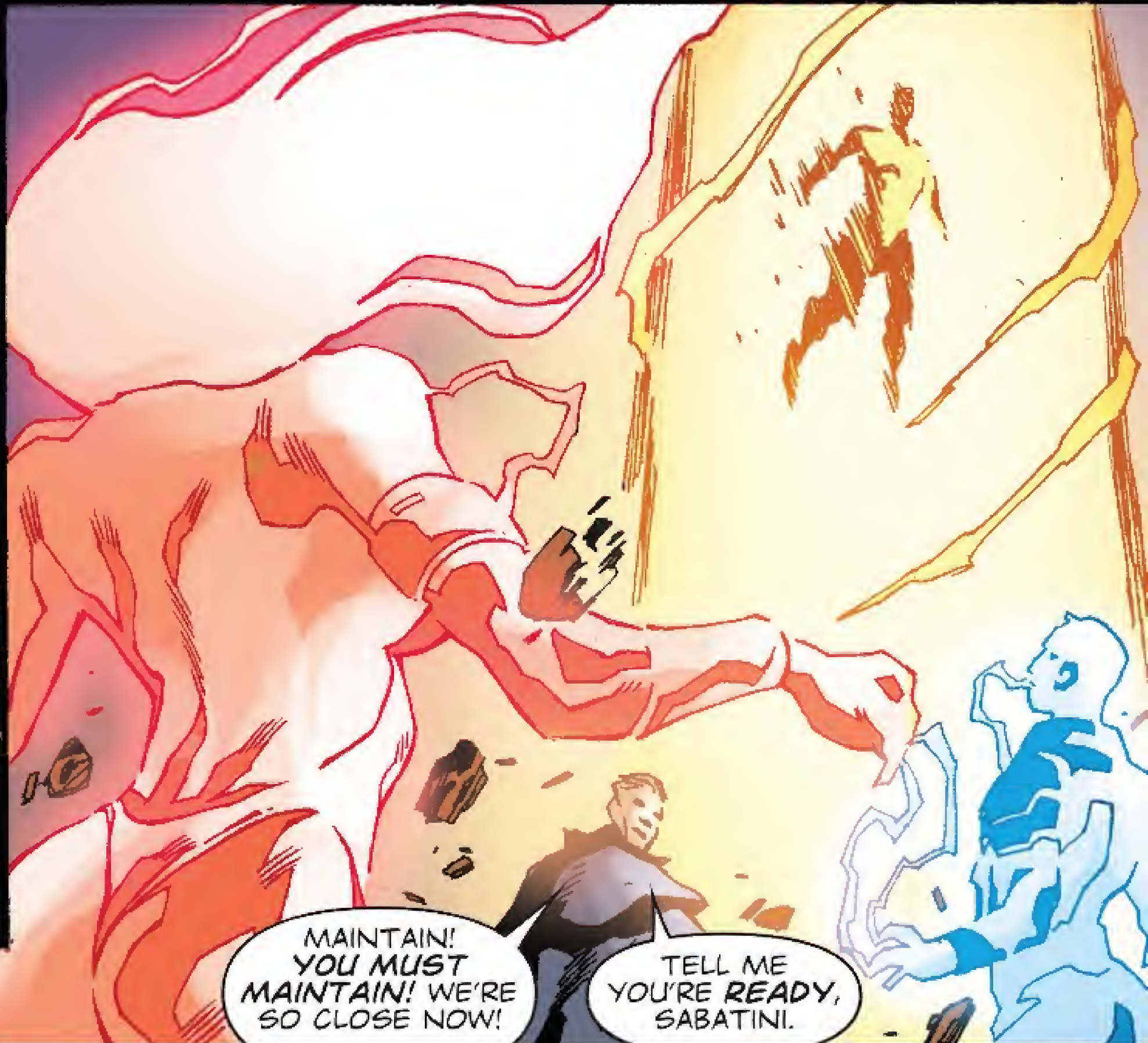
THERE'S NO
NEED, EXE. I
ALREADY KNOW
THE SOURCE.

I ONLY WISH
I'D REALIZED IT
SOONER...



"...BECAUSE DRACULA WOULD
ONLY ALLOW THIS TO
HAPPEN IF HE WAS CERTAIN
THAT WE WOULD BE
POWERLESS TO STOP IT!"





TELL ME
YOU'RE **READY**,
SABATINI.

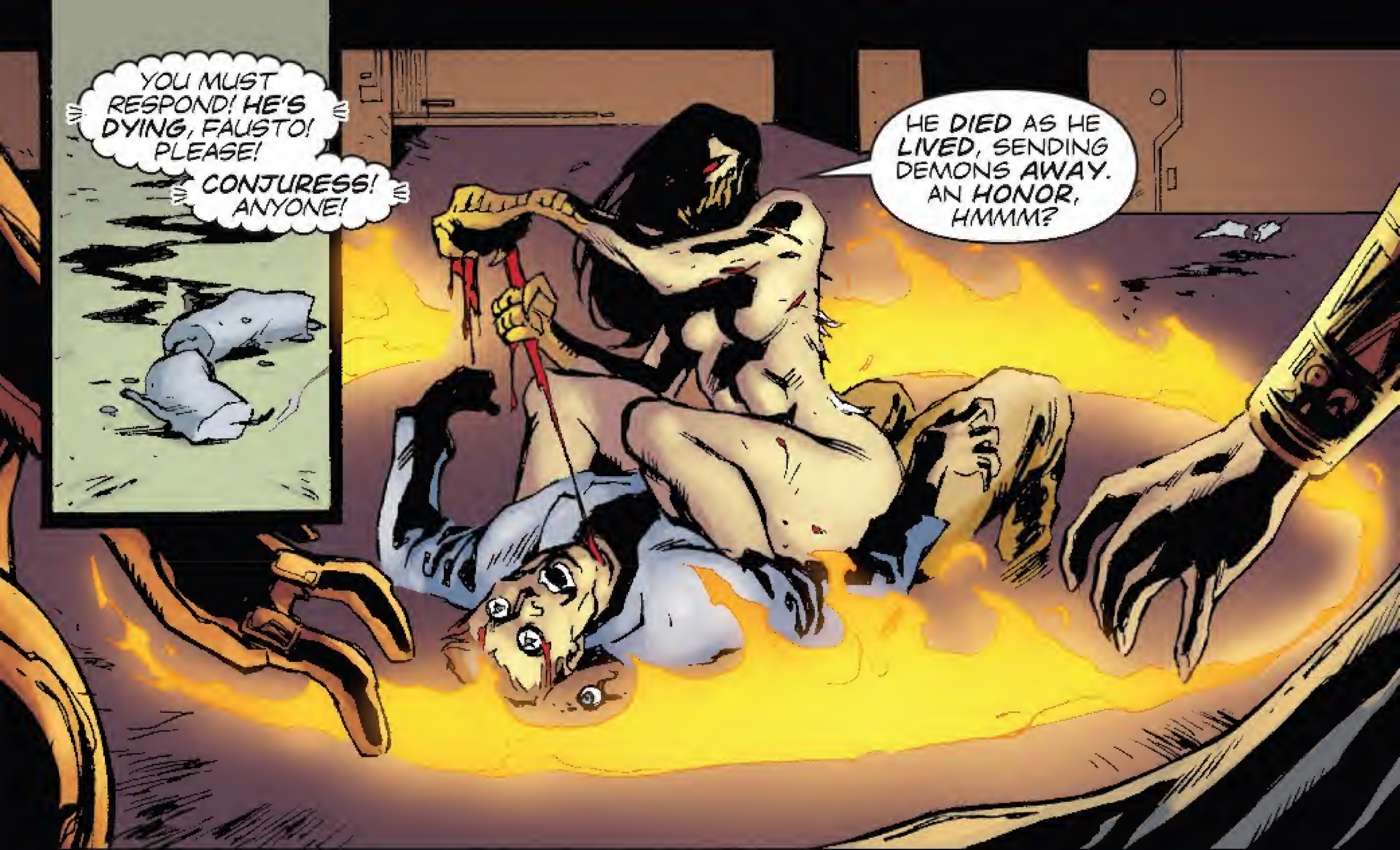


I AM I AM
I AM I AM
I AM I...



LIGHT THE
CANDLE!
LIGHT THE
CANDLE!

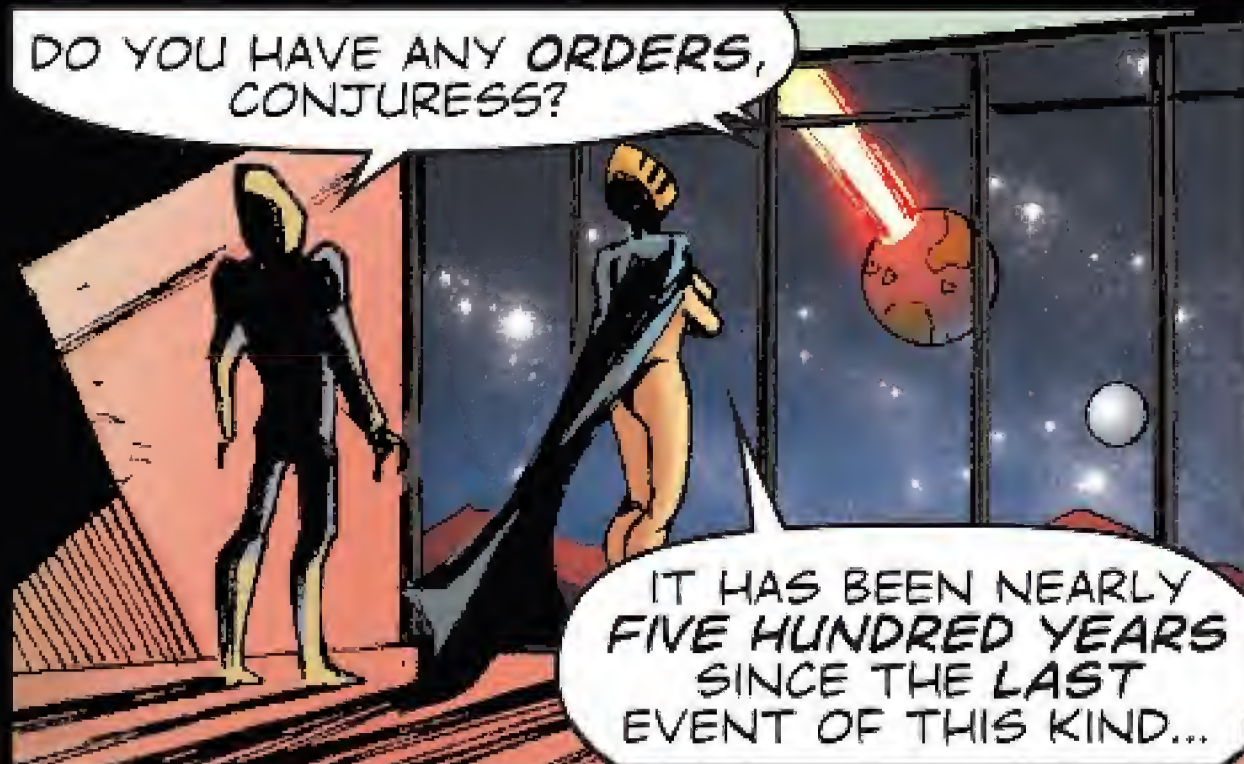
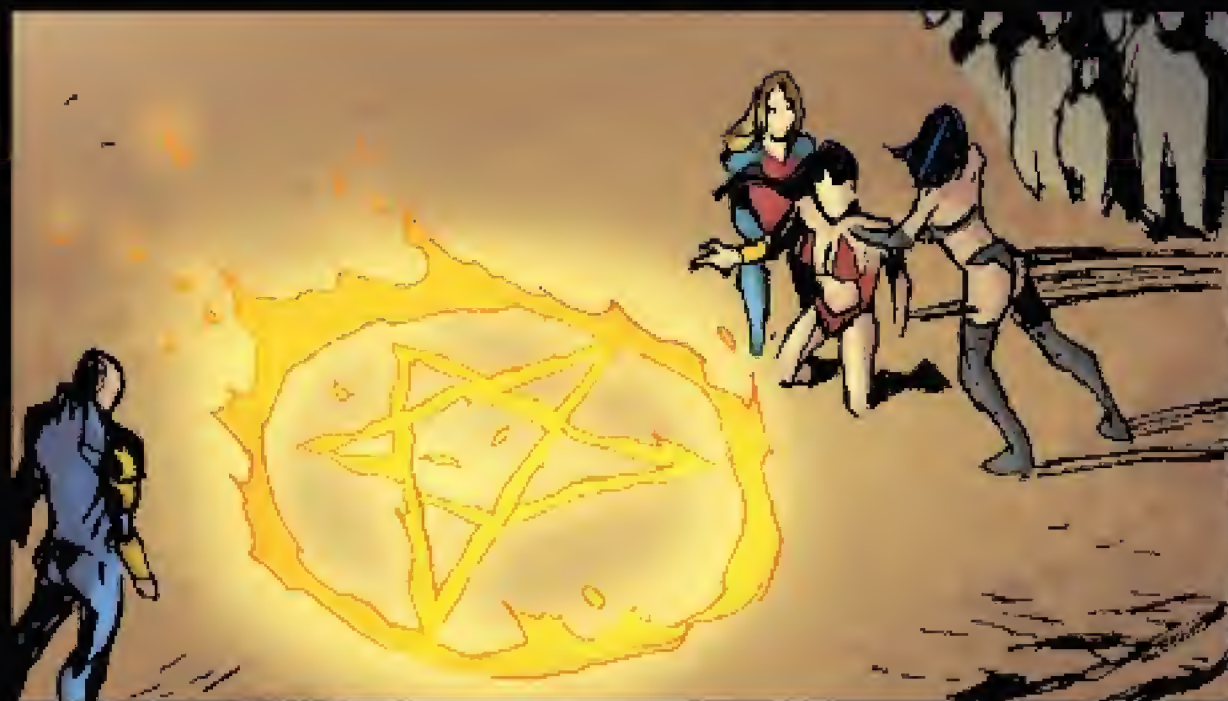




YOU MUST
RESPOND! HE'S
DYING, FAUSTO!
PLEASE!

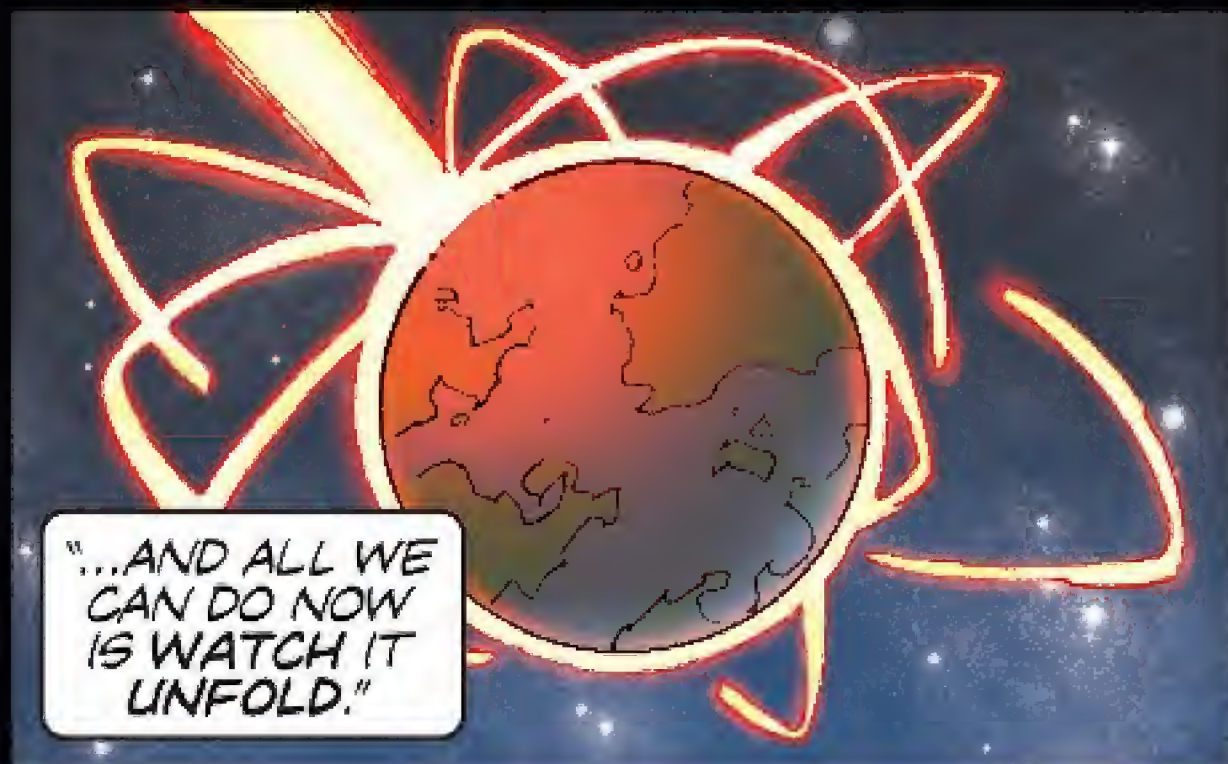
CONJURESS!
ANYONE!

HE DIED AS HE
LIVED, SENDING
DEMONS AWAY.
AN HONOR,
HMMM?




DO YOU HAVE ANY ORDERS,
CONJURESS?

IT HAS BEEN NEARLY
FIVE HUNDRED YEARS
SINCE THE LAST
EVENT OF THIS KIND...




"...AND ALL WE
CAN DO NOW
IS WATCH IT
UNFOLD."




"DRACULA FOUND A WAY TO PIERCE THE WALL BETWEEN THIS DIMENSION AND THE NETHER-VOID.

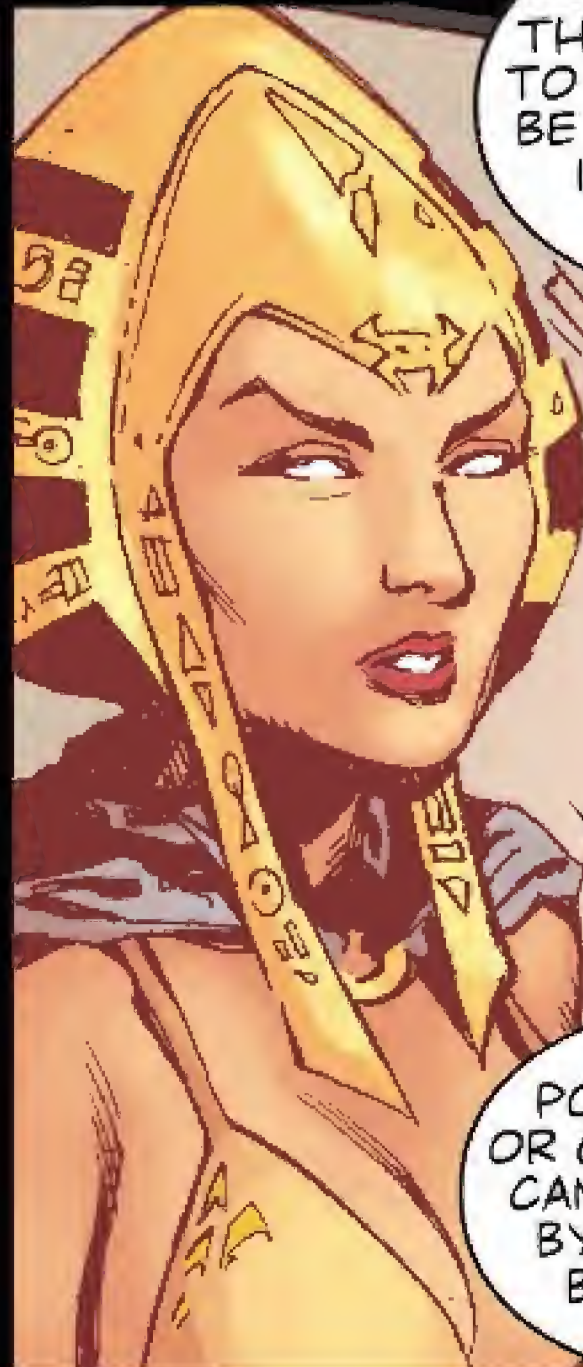
"I BELIEVE HE WAS USING HIS NEWLY-INCREASED POWERS TO MAINTAIN A TELEKINETIC BARRIER, KNOWING FULL WELL THAT HIS DEATH WOULD CAUSE THAT DAM TO BURST.



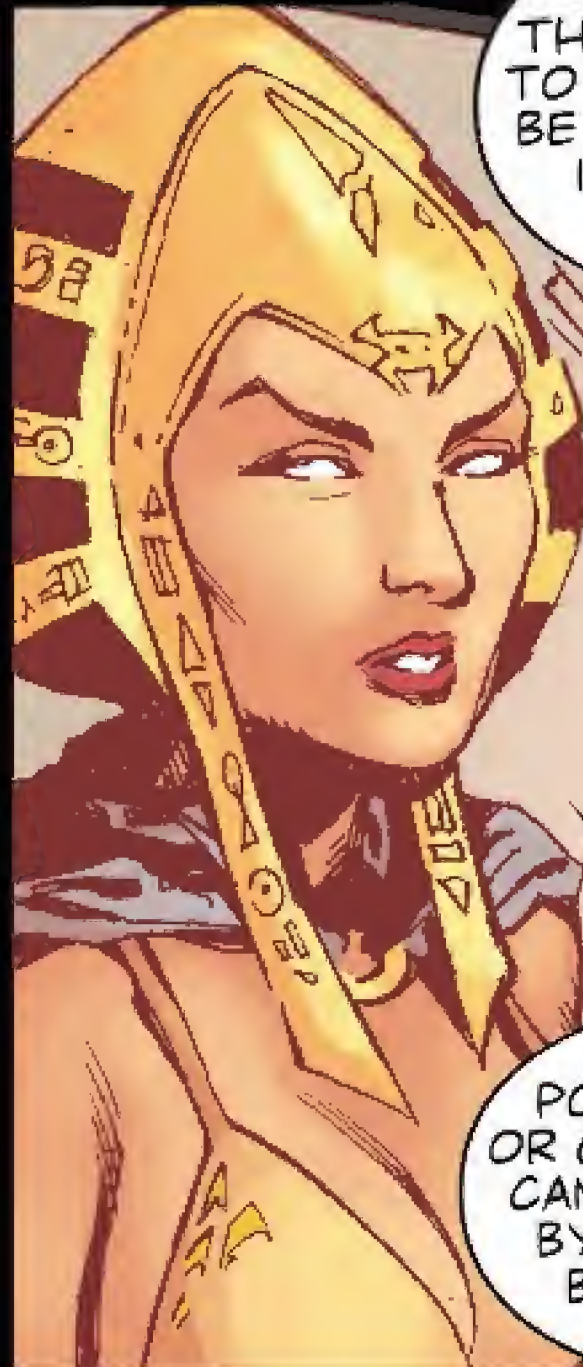
"THE HUMANS REFER TO THIS AS A DEAD-MAN'S SWITCH.




"WHEN THE BARRIER FELL, THE UNSTABLE ENERGY THAT DIVIDES REALITIES WAS EXPELLED INTO BOTH DIMENSIONS.



THE ENERGY CANNOT RETURN TO ITS OWN SOURCE. IT MUST BE EXPENDED, AND ABSORBED INTO THE FABRIC OF OUR REALITY, AND THE NETHER-VOID'S.




IT HAS THE POWER TO DESTROY OR CREATE. THE EFFECT CANNOT BE PREDICTED BY SAGE OR SCIENCE, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU OF THIS.




"WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER TO HELP OUR ALLIES WHILE WE CAN...

"...BECAUSE THE REALITY THAT WE INHABIT NOW WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS DAY UNCHANGED."


NEXT: THE SLEEPLESS BOYS



YOU MAY FIND THIS
HARD TO BELIEVE...



BUT SOMETIMES
I SCARE MYSELF.



SOMETIMES I
STAND BACK AND
TAKE A GOOD
LONG LOOK AT
WHO I AM...



...AND WHAT I'VE DONE...



...WHAT I CONTINUE TO DO.



AND SOME DAYS, WHAT I SEE THERE...



IT REALLY FRIGHTENS ME.





I KNOW
THAT PROBABLY
SOUNDS KIND
OF SILLY...



ESPECIALLY
AFTER WHAT
YOU'VE SEEN.



I...
I DON'T...



WHAT'S
THAT NIETZSCHE
QUOTE?



VAMPIRELLA

On the Side of Angels

"BATTLE NOT
WITH MONSTERS,
LEST YE BECOME
A MONSTER."

STEVE
watering hole

VAMPIRELLA
STRIKES

IN STORES
JANUARY
2013!

DYNAMITE
26

VAMPIRELLA®



Requies
2012

DYNAMITE
26

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FABIANO

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PEACE.

ON A COLD WINTER'S EVE--AND IN A PLACE SUCH AS THIS--ONE MIGHT PRESUME THAT EVEN AN INHUMAN CREATURE OF THE NIGHT COULD FIND WITHIN THEMSELVES THE FAINTEST SPARK OF SOLACE, AND BE WARMED BY IT.

PERHAPS THAT'S TRUE IN MANY CASES...

...BUT EVEN HERE, AMONG THE SILENT AND SLUMBERING DEAD...

...THERE WILL BE NO PEACE FOR VAMPIRELLA.

"THE SLEEPLESS BOYS"

written by Brandon Jerwa drawn by Heubert Khan Michael

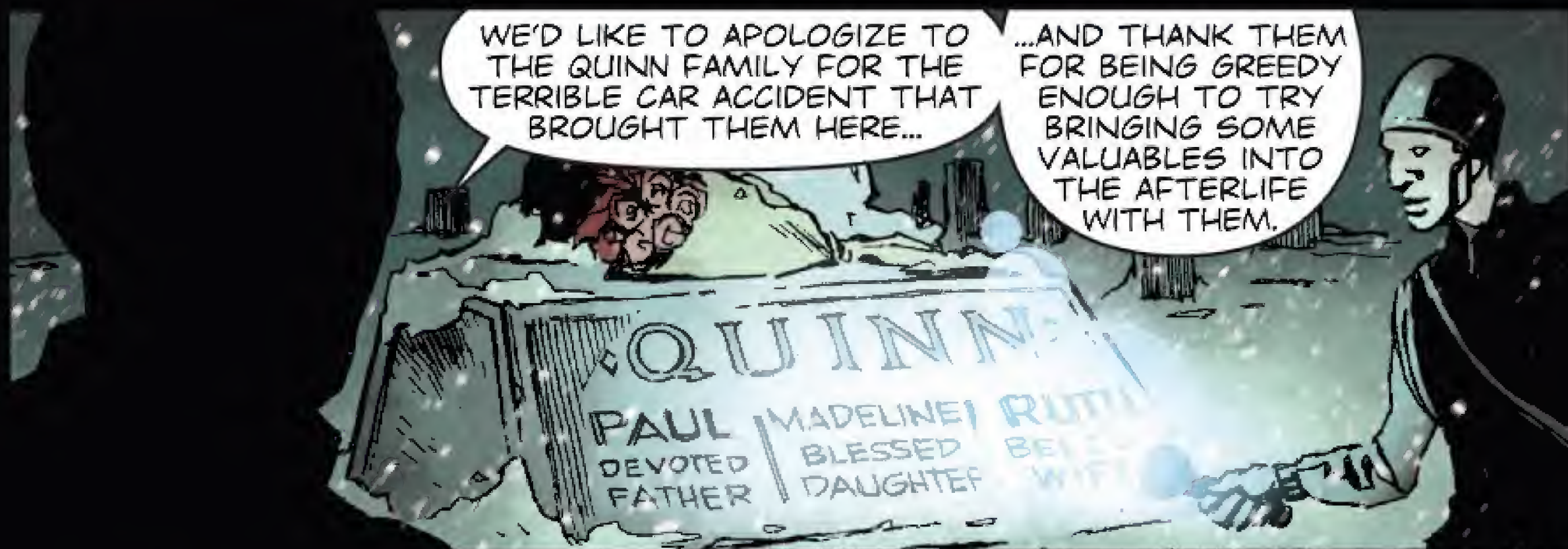
colored by Mat Lopes lettered by Marshall Dillon

edited by Joe Rybandt



I LOVE THAT SOUND.

BLEEP BLEEP BLEEP
BLEEEEEEEEEEEEP



WE'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE QUINN FAMILY FOR THE TERRIBLE CAR ACCIDENT THAT BROUGHT THEM HERE...

...AND THANK THEM FOR BEING GREEDY ENOUGH TO TRY BRINGING SOME VALUABLES INTO THE AFTERLIFE WITH THEM.



AMEN, BROTHER DOUG.

THANKS, BROTHER BOB.

CAN YOU DIG IT? 'CAUSE I CAN DIG IT.



ARE THOSE YOUR FINAL WORDS?



EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!

I GUESS NOT.

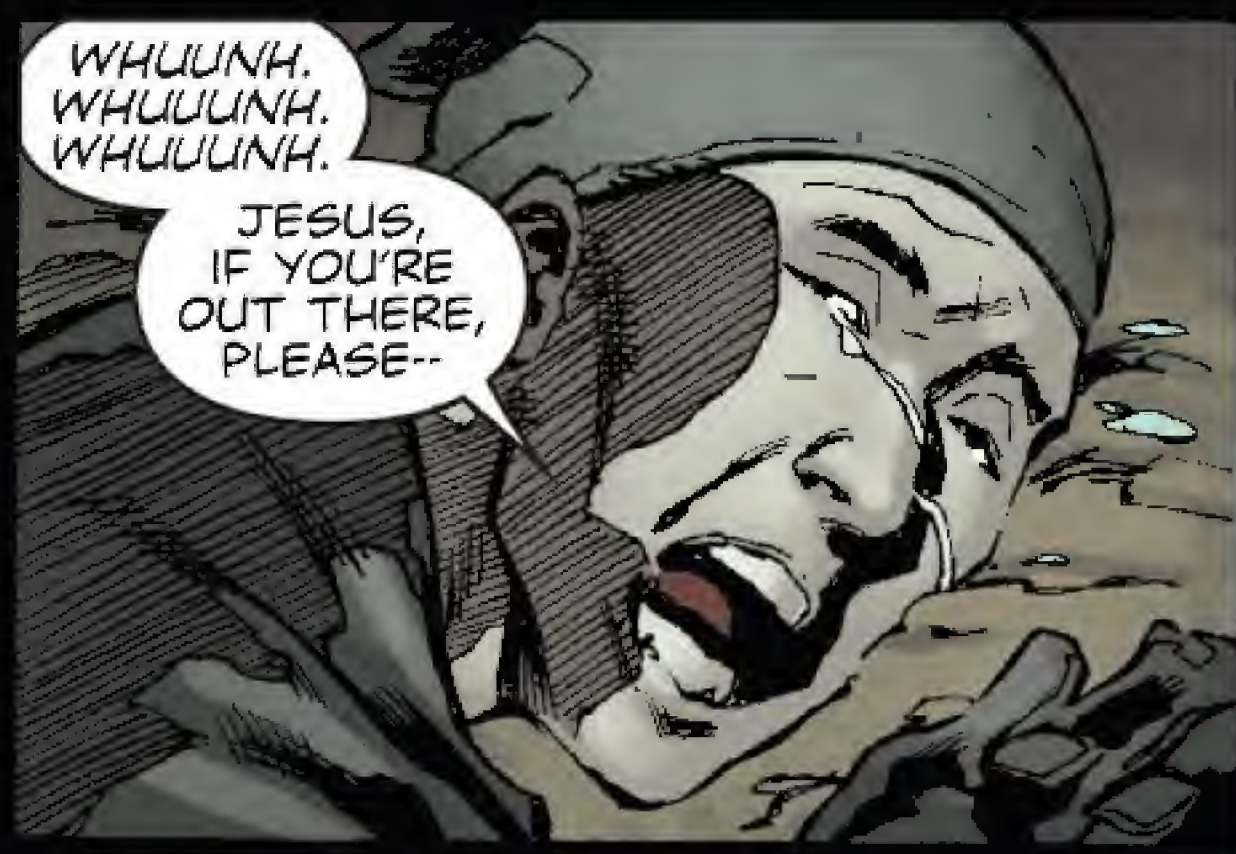


TO
HELL WITH
THIS--

N-N-
NOOO P-
PLEEEAASE



WHUUUAAAGH!



WHUUNH.
WHUUNH.
WHUUNH.

JESUS,
IF YOU'RE
OUT THERE,
PLEASE--



ARE YOU
PRAYING FOR
SALVATION?

IT NEVER
COMES.
YOU CAN
TRUST ME
ON THAT.





I'M CERTAIN I'M NOT THE FIRST TO ASK, BUT I SIMPLY MUST KNOW...

...HOW CAN YOU STAND TO BE OUT IN THIS WEATHER WEARING THAT COSTUME?



PROPER DIET AND A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.



I SEE. AND DOES YOUR INCESSANT SARCASM HELP PROTECT AGAINST THE ELEMENTS, OR IS IT SIMPLY A PERSONALITY ENHANCER?



IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE COME TO MEET IN PERSON, BAZRYS.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS?



PERHAPS I DO.

WHAT WOULD THIS ALLEGED NEWS BE WORTH TO YOU, VAMPIRELLA?



WE BOTH KNOW MY ACCOUNT IS WELL INTO THE BLACK. I'D HATE TO THINK YOU WERE CHEATING ME, BAZRYS.

OH, PUT YOUR FANGS AWAY. I WAS ONLY TEASING.



I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE LOCATED THE SOUL YOU'VE BEEN SEEKING. A MISTER...

ADAM VAN HELSING.



MANNERS! I WAS GETTING THERE.

ADAM IS A PRISONER OF HELL, BUT NOT ON THE ORDERS OF THE OFFICIAL GOVERNING BODY. HE IS BEING HELD BY AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY.

YOU'VE BEEN DOLING OUT PUNISHMENT TO HELLBOUND SOULS AT AN IMPRESSIVE RATE THESE LAST SIX MONTHS, MY DEAR...

...BUT THAT MEANS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ADAM VAN HELSING'S KEEPERS.



I'M STILL TRYING TO OPEN UP DIRECT LINES OF COMMUNICATION, BUT I DID LEARN OF ONE HUMAN BOUNTY THAT MAY BE A USEFUL BARGAINING CHIP. IT WON'T BE EASY--

JUST TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO DO.

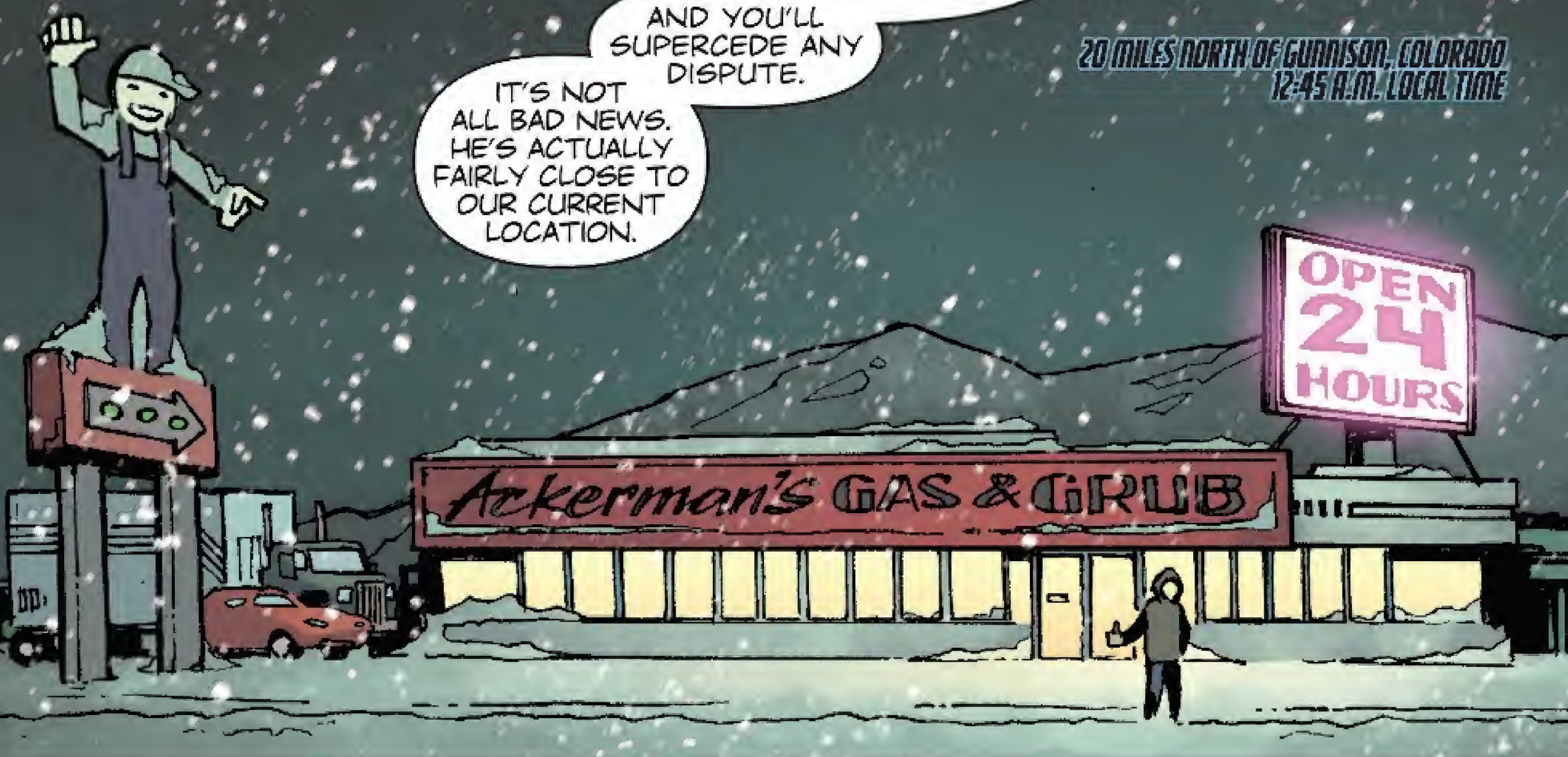
HE'S A BLACK-HEARTED FIEND THAT HAS AWAKENED FROM A LONG REST.

HIS SOUL IS RUMORED TO HAVE A THIRD-PARTY CLAIM UPON IT, BUT I FOUND NO RECORD OF SUCH. BIND HIM WITH ONE OF THESE AS CLOSE TO THE MOMENT OF DEATH AS YOU CAN--KEEPING THE OTHER UPON YOURSELF--

AND YOU'LL SUPERCEDE ANY DISPUTE.

IT'S NOT ALL BAD NEWS. HE'S ACTUALLY FAIRLY CLOSE TO OUR CURRENT LOCATION.

20 MILES NORTH OF GUNNISON, COLORADO
12:45 A.M. LOCAL TIME





HEY, YOU MUST BE FREEZING OUT THERE!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BOTH HEADED THE SAME DIRECTION. WHAT'S YOUR DESTINATION?



I'M, UH, TRYING TO GET UP TO BRECKENRIDGE. I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY, BUT I CAN KICK IN FOR SOME GAS.

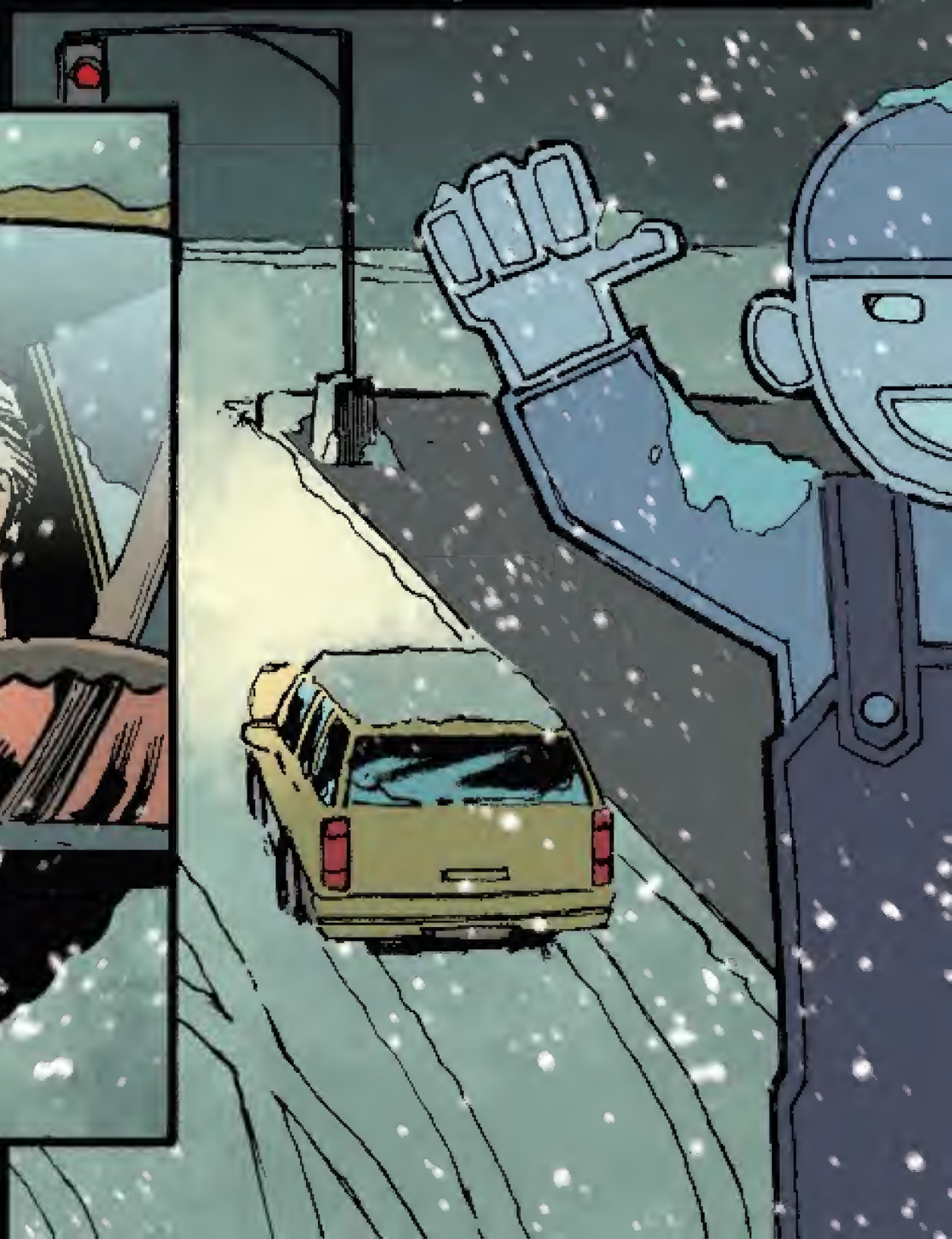
YOU KEEP YOUR MONEY. I'M GOING FURTHER THAN BRECKENRIDGE. NO PROBLEM AT ALL!



JUST SCOOT ON IN. MY NAME'S BERT.

OH, HEY. I'M DREW. THANKS FOR THE RIDE.

IT'S MY PLEASURE. TRULY.



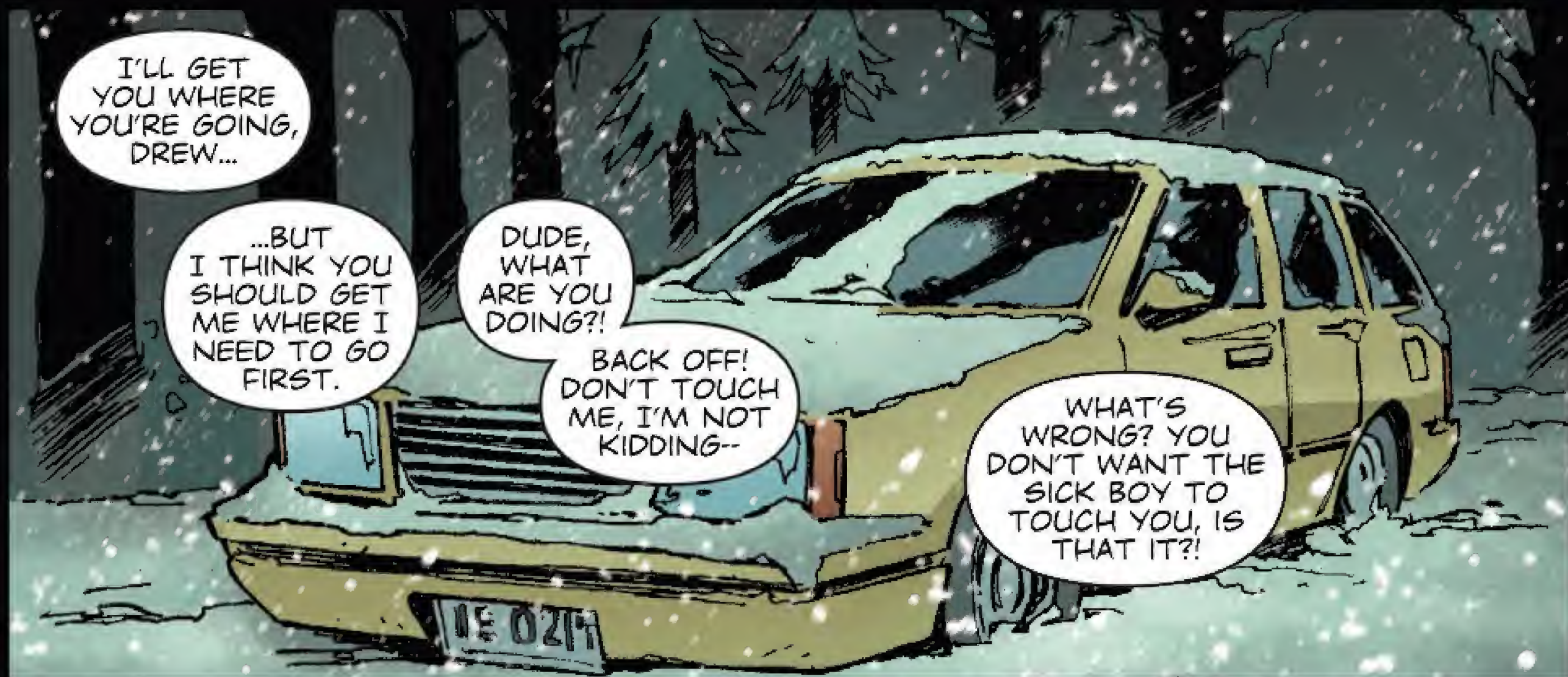






--I'M FINE.
REALLY. I JUST
NEED TO GET TO
BRECKENRIDGE.

DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
A THING.



I'LL GET
YOU WHERE
YOU'RE GOING,
DREW...

...BUT
I THINK YOU
SHOULD GET
ME WHERE I
NEED TO GO
FIRST.

DUDE,
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

BACK OFF!
DON'T TOUCH
ME, I'M NOT
KIDDING--

WHAT'S
WRONG? YOU
DON'T WANT THE
SICK BOY TO
TOUCH YOU, IS
THAT IT?!



YOU
SMILED AT ME,
DREW. I CAN
MAKE US BOTH
SMILE.

GET AWAY
FROM ME!



SHRRUUUK

OH, DREW.
WHY DID
YOU GO AND
MAKE ME DO
THAT?



HE'S COMING BACK.

AND HE WON'T
BE ALONE.







GONNA TRY TO FIX ME, HUH?

HOW ABOUT I FIX YOU FIRST?!



IT'S NOT RIGHT.

THIS PLACE... I KNOW IT, BUT IT'S NOT RIGHT!

NOT FOR ME TO BE HERE.



WHERE DO I KNOW THIS FROM?

OH. HEE-HEE.

OH, OH, OH.

I GET IT NOW. I SEE IT, YES SIR...



MMMNNNGH.
WELL, SOMEONE'S STRONGER THAN THEY LOOK...



A RESTLESS SPIRIT,
RUNNING LIKE A GIDDY
LITTLE BOY TOWARD
A WEIRD SCHOOL IN
THE MIDDLE OF
NOWHERE...?

YES,
I DEFINITELY
HATE WHERE
THIS IS
GOING.



YOU CAME
HERE WITH
HIM. DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
LEAVING WITH
HIM?

THAT...
WAS MY
PLAN, YES.





HEY, WAIT!
WHY DID
YOU SAY...



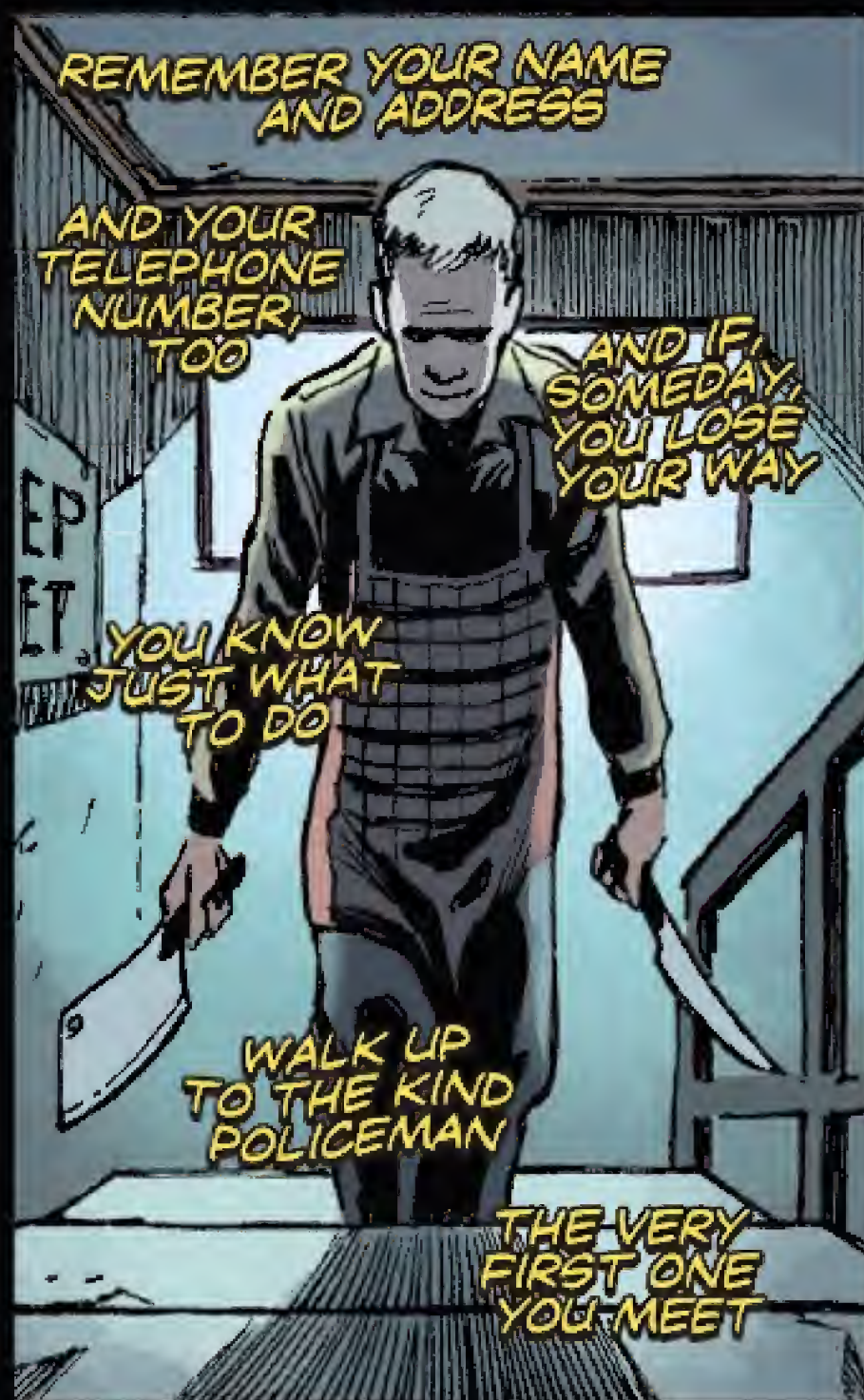
...“HE CAN’T GO
ANYWHERE ELSE”?
WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN--

OH.



IT MEANS THAT
SOMETIMES, A MONSTER
IS SET FREE TO WALK
THE EARTH...

...WHILE INNOCENT CHILDREN
WAIT AN ETERNITY FOR ANY
KIND OF PEACE OR JUSTICE.



REMEMBER YOUR NAME
AND ADDRESS

AND YOUR
TELEPHONE
NUMBER,
TOO

AND IF,
SOMEDAY,
YOU LOSE
YOUR WAY

YOU KNOW
JUST WHAT
TO DO

WALK UP
TO THE KIND
POLICEMAN

THE VERY
FIRST ONE
YOU MEET



AND
SIMPLY SAY...

I’VE LOST
MY WAY,

I CANNOT
FIND MY
STREET,

BUT I KNOW
MY NAME AND
ADDRESS

AND
TELEPHONE
NUMBER,
TOO



MISS, I KNOW WHAT
YOU’RE TRYING TO DO.
PLEASE, YOU HAVE
TO LISTEN--

STAY WITH THE BOYS.
I’LL HANDLE THIS.

THEN HE’LL
BE KIND

AND HELP
YOU TO FIND

THE DEAR
ONES

WHO WAIT FOR
YOOOOUUUUUUUU



YOU CAN'T BE HERE. THIS IS A BOYS' SCHOOL. IT'S NOT ALLOWED!



THEY'LL TELL MOTHER ROWAN ON YOU, AND THERE WILL BE SOME TROUBLE THEN, OH BOY...

YOU! DON'T! BELONG!



YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

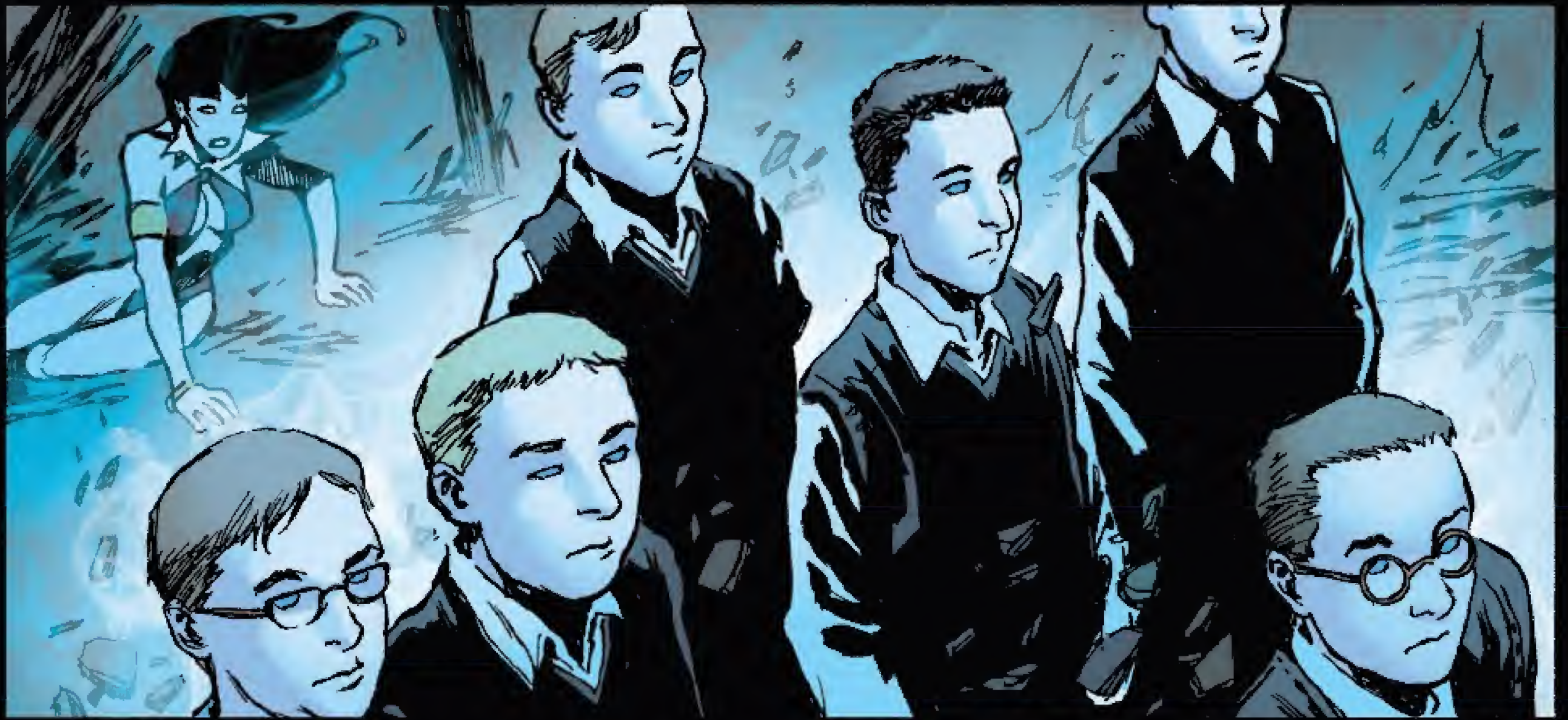


NO.



HOLY SH--





COME ON. WE SHOULDN'T BE CLOSE WHEN IT HAPPENS.

WHEN WHAT HAPPENS? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

IT'S ALL SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN. IT HAS TO GO THIS WAY. PLEASE BELIEVE ME.

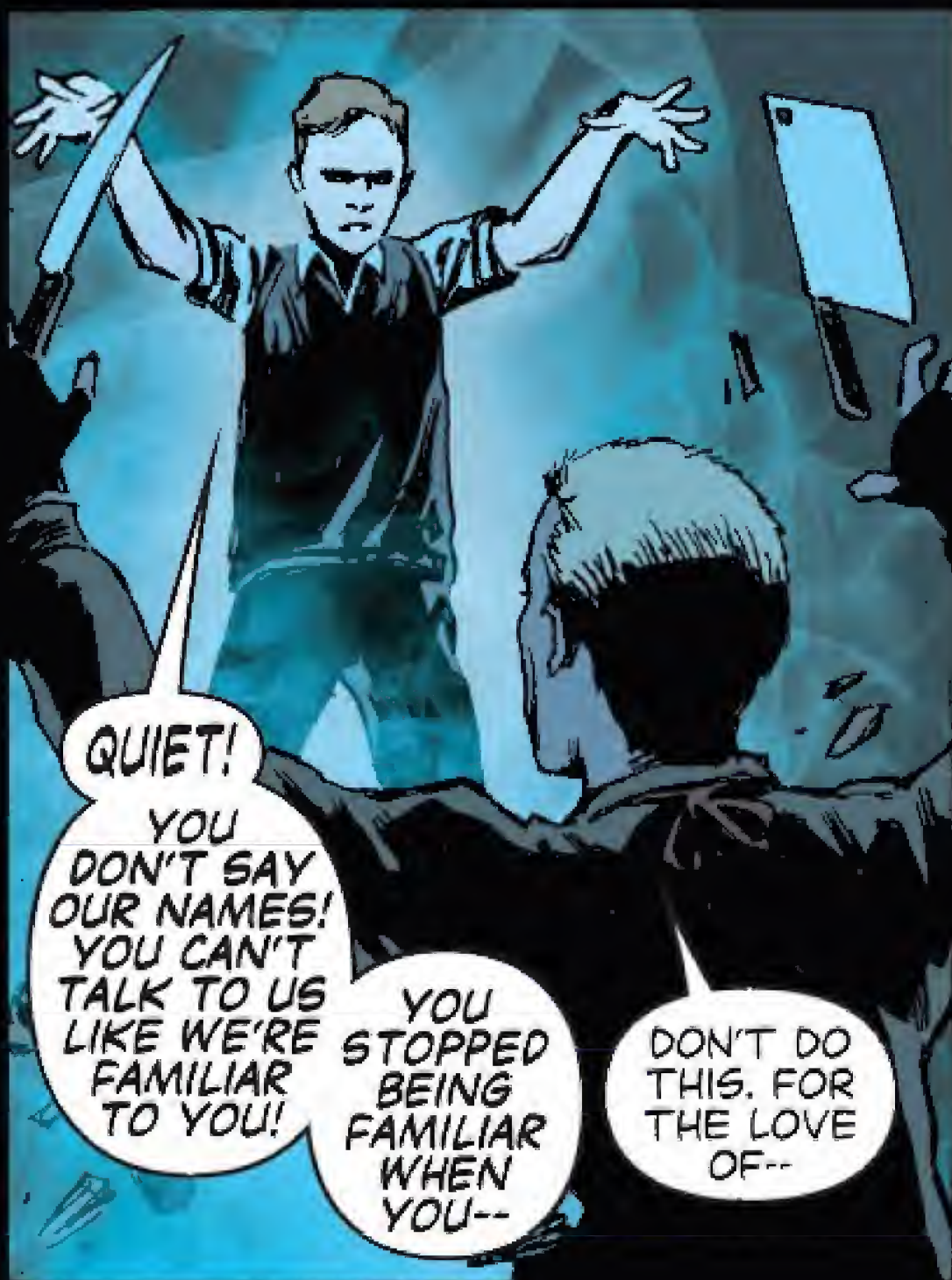
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAPPENED!

NO ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO GET HURT!

KEVIN.

CHRISTOPHER-- SPENCER.



QUIET!

YOU DON'T SAY OUR NAMES! YOU CAN'T TALK TO US LIKE WE'RE FAMILIAR TO YOU!

YOU STOPPED BEING FAMILIAR WHEN YOU--

DON'T DO THIS. FOR THE LOVE OF--



THIS CAN'T GO ON. I'M TAKING HIM AWAY.

NO! PLEASE!

I NEED TO DELIVER HIM--



SO DO WE.



WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, BOYS? THERE'S NO TIME FOR GAMES.

EVERYONE'S GONE. THE LAST BUS IS COMING TO TAKE YOU ALL HOME FOR YOUR FAMILY HOLIDAYS--

IT'S NOT A GAME, MOTHER ROWAN! WE HEARD SOMETHING IN THE BEDROOM. SOMETHING...BAD.



LET ME GO! PLEASE! MOMMAAAA!

TAKE YOUR MEDICINE, BOY.



I SEEN YOU LOOKIN' AT ME WHILE I WAS WORKIN' IN THE YARD, BOY. SAW YOU SMILE.

GONNA MAKE US BOTH SMILE NOW.



AAAUUOORRGGH!

SKLUUK!



MY EYE! GGGHHHHHAAH JESUS-- YUUAH!

PLEASE. NO. OH, NO--



OOORRGGGGH!

TCHUK!



STOP! HE'S DOWN, HE'S DOWN--

SNAP OUT OF IT! COME ON!

CALL THE POLICE!



YOU HAVE TO STOP. PLEASE. HE'S DEAD. YOU GOTTA STOP THIS.

ALBERT? CAN YOU HEAR ME?



ALBERT...?



"ALBERT." BUT...WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU ALL STILL HERE?

I DON'T KNOW. WE'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS TO END. SO VERY LONG...



YOU CAN'T. IT WON'T FIX ANYTHING.

C'MON, CHRIS. YOU DO THIS, AND YOU'RE JUST AS SICK AS HE IS.

NO! HE DESERVES TO PAY FOR WHAT HE DID!



THEY'RE RIGHT, FELLAS. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SICK BOYS LIKE ME, DO YA?

IT DOESN'T GET BETTER. IT DOESN'T GET FIXED--!



THANK YOU FOR LETTING THIS END. THEY'RE CHILDREN... ..AND THEY DESERVE PEACE.



I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO GIVE UP SOMETHING TO HELP US.

IT'S OKAY. YOU WERE WAITING LONGER.

THE COLD WINTER'S EVE ENDS AS IT BEGAN, WITH ONE WOMAN STANDING ALONE IN THE DARKNESS.



SHE HAD A DIFFERENT ENDING IN MIND FOR THIS WINTER'S TALE, BUT AS SHE PULLS HER CLOAK AROUND HERSELF, BRACING AGAINST THE CHILL...

...THE WOMAN KNOWN AS VAMPIRELLA IS WARMED BY A TINY SPARK OF SOLACE.

IF SHE CANNOT FIND HER OWN PEACE TONIGHT, SHE CAN STILL TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT SHE HELPED SOMEONE ELSE FIND THEIRS.

--END--

NEXT: THEORIES OF RELATIVITY



DYNAMITE
27

VAMPIRELLA®



Rodriguez
2012

DYNAMITE
27

VAMPIRELLA®



FABIANO 12

DYNAMITE
27

VAMPIRELLA®



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
10:17 P.M.



THAT'S
RIGHT. GO
AHEAD AND
RUN.



WE'VE
GOT ALL NIGHT,
VAMPIRELLA.

BRZAP

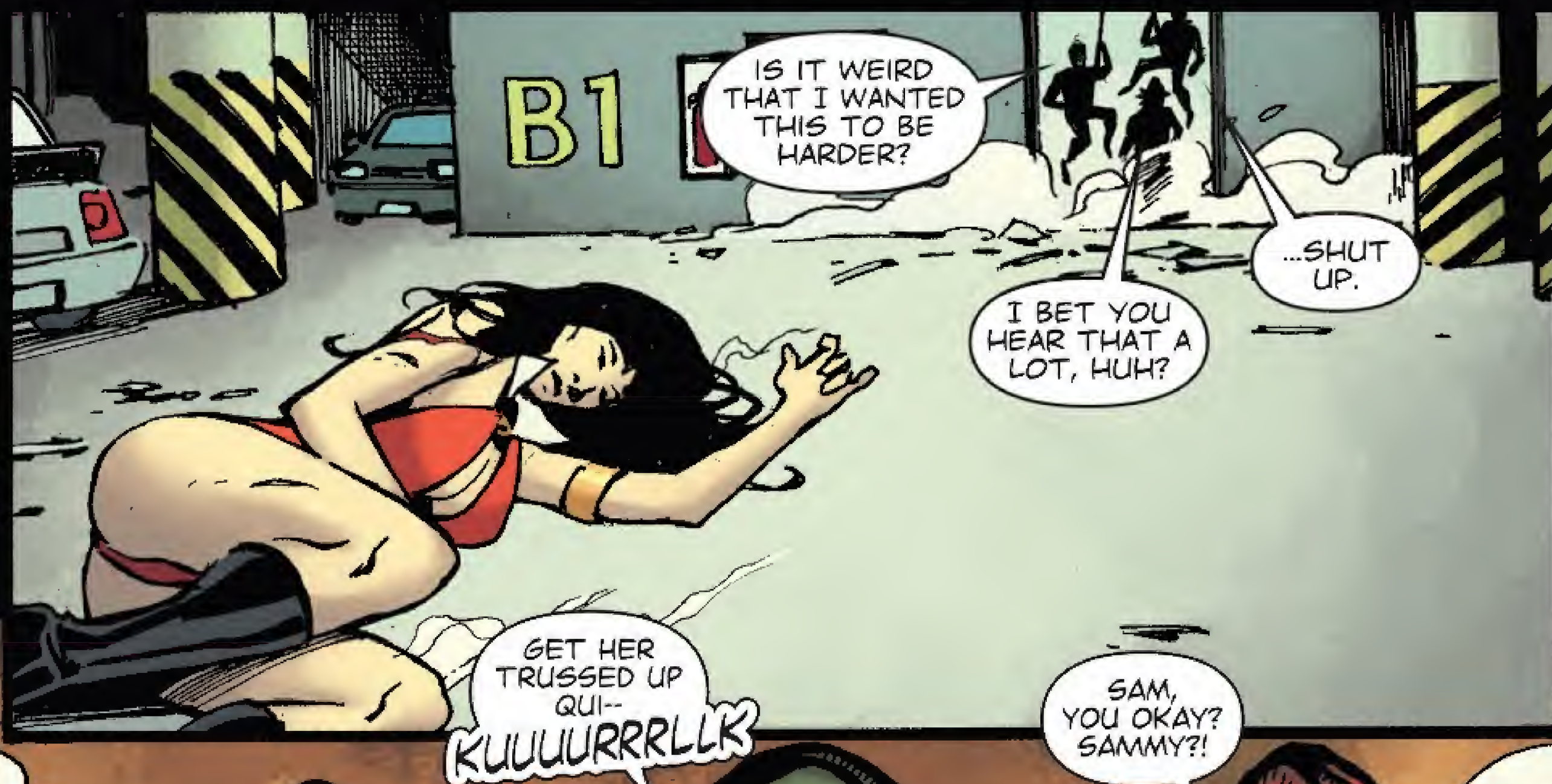


AAAOWWW!

IT...IT
BUZZES. F-FEEL
SH-SHIV-V-VERY.









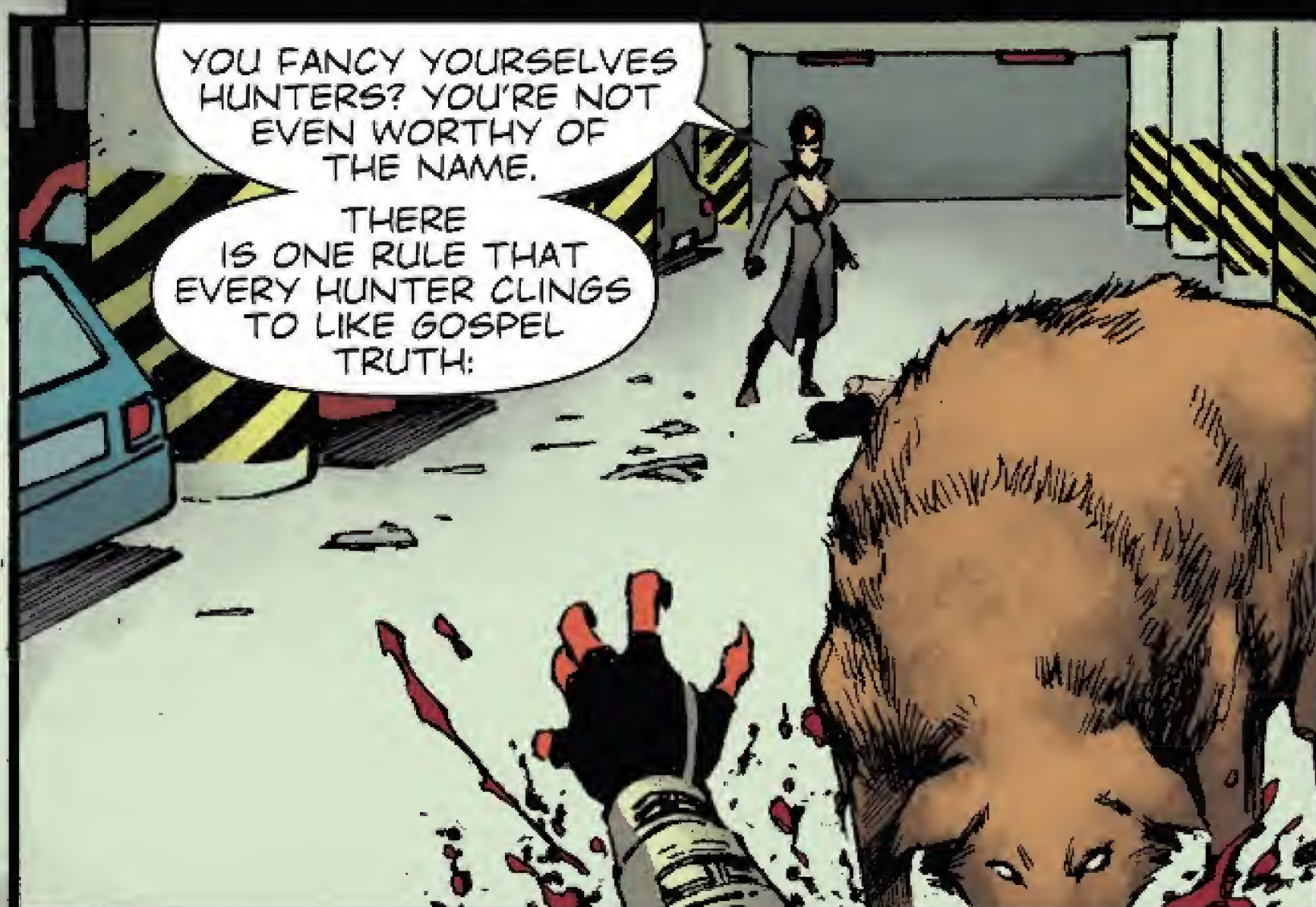
GGRRRAAAWWNGH

TIL BENET,
MIN SULTEN
VENNER.



JESUS,
YOU'RE CRAZY!
COME ON, CALL
'EM OFF!

DON'T
DO THIS! YOU
CAN'T--!



YOU FANCY YOURSELVES
HUNTERS? YOU'RE NOT
EVEN WORTHY OF
THE NAME.

THERE
IS ONE RULE THAT
EVERY HUNTER CLINGS
TO LIKE GOSPEL
TRUTH:



IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF YOU'RE
CATCHING A DOVE,
OR SLAYING A
DRAGON...

VAMPIRELLA in:
Theories of Relativity part 1

writer: Brandon Jerwa
artist: Heubert Khan Michael
colorist: Mat Lopes
letterer: Marshall Dillon
editor: Joe Rybandt

...JUST
ALWAYS BE
SURE THAT ITS
MOTHER WON'T
CATCH YOU.

27v



11:49 P.M.



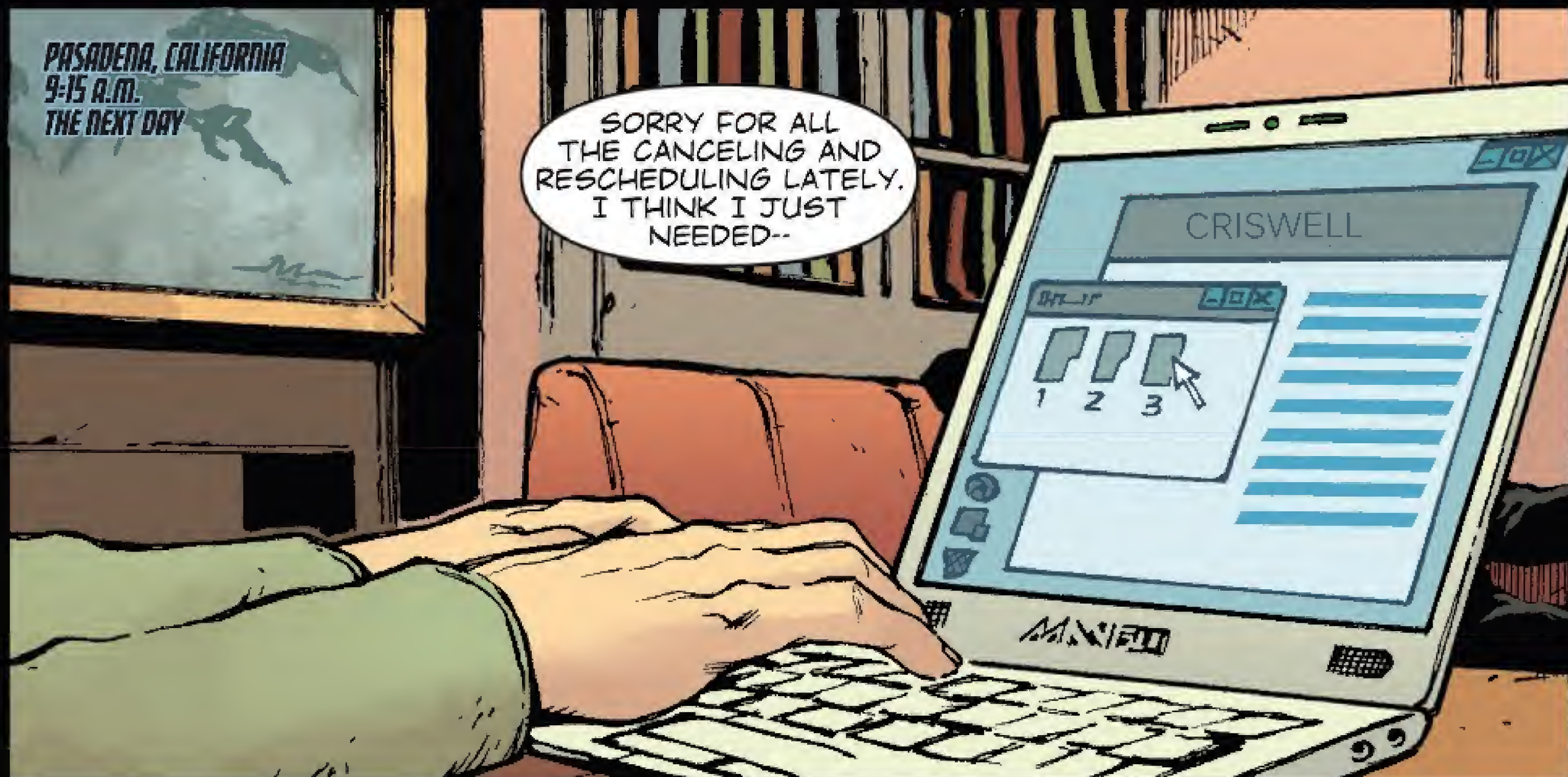
SIX MONTHS.





PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
9-15 A.M.
THE NEXT DAY

SORRY FOR ALL
THE CANCELING AND
RESCHEDULING LATELY.
I THINK I JUST
NEEDED--



I'VE TOLD
YOU THINGS THAT
ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO
BELIEVE. I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'VE SAID
IN YOUR NOTES,
BUT...



...IF YOU THINK
I'M CRAZY, JUST
GO AHEAD AND
TELL ME NOW.

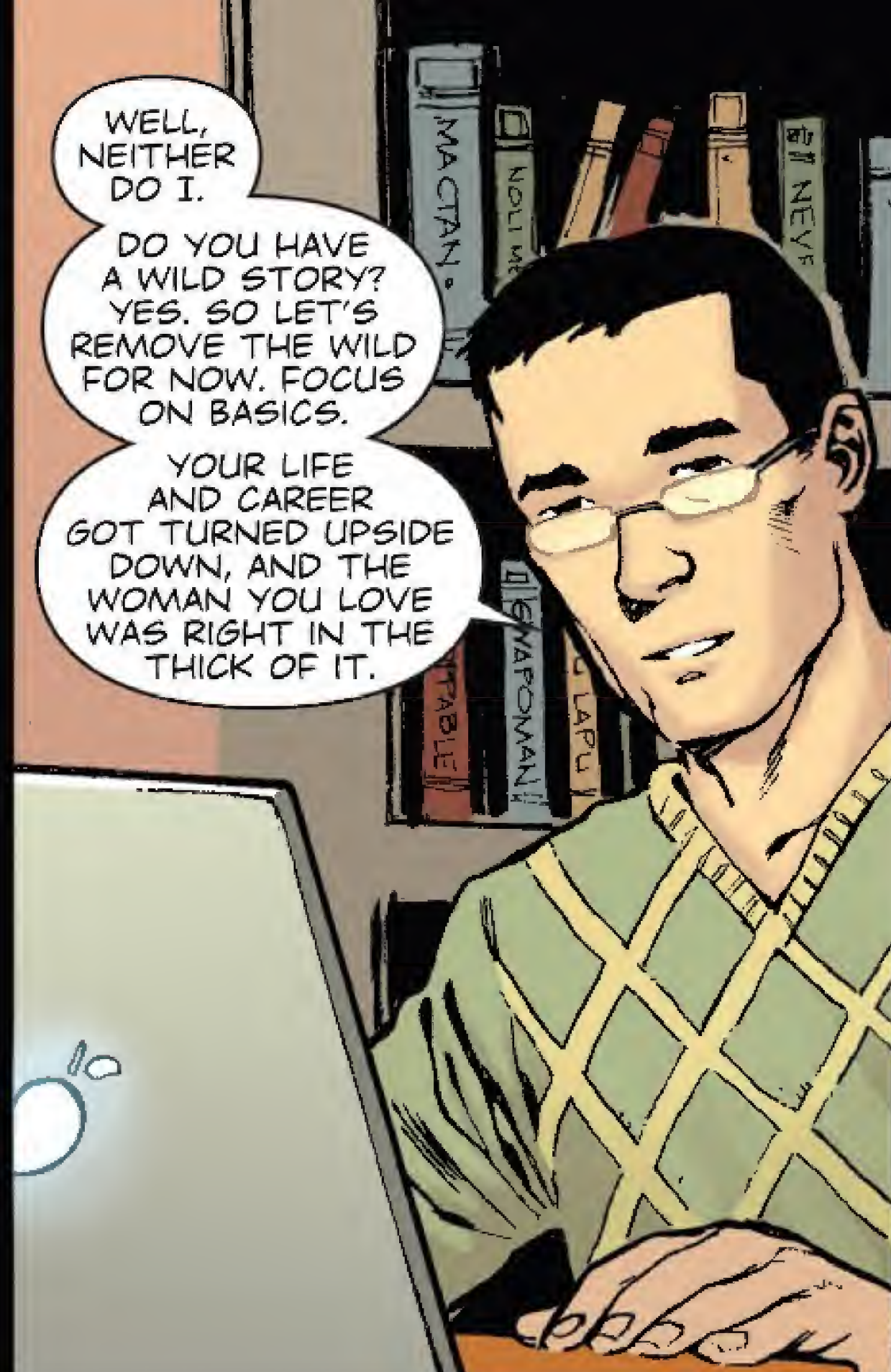


DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
CRAZY, TOM?

NO. NOT
ENTIRELY.
NOT--

--WELL, NOT
TODAY.





WELL,
NEITHER
DO I.

DO YOU HAVE
A WILD STORY?
YES. SO LET'S
REMOVE THE WILD
FOR NOW. FOCUS
ON BASICS.

YOUR LIFE
AND CAREER
GOT TURNED UPSIDE
DOWN, AND THE
WOMAN YOU LOVE
WAS RIGHT IN THE
THICK OF IT.



EVERYBODY
GOT HURT.
YOU BOTH
SURVIVED...

...BUT SHE
WALKED AWAY
SIX MONTHS
AGO, AND NOW
YOU'RE
EMPTY.

SO WHAT
IF SHE DOESN'T
COME BACK?



I GUESS
I KEEP DOING
THIS UNTIL I LEARN
TO COPE, OR YOU MAKE
ENOUGH OFF ME TO
BUY A SAILBOAT AND
GO TO CHINA.

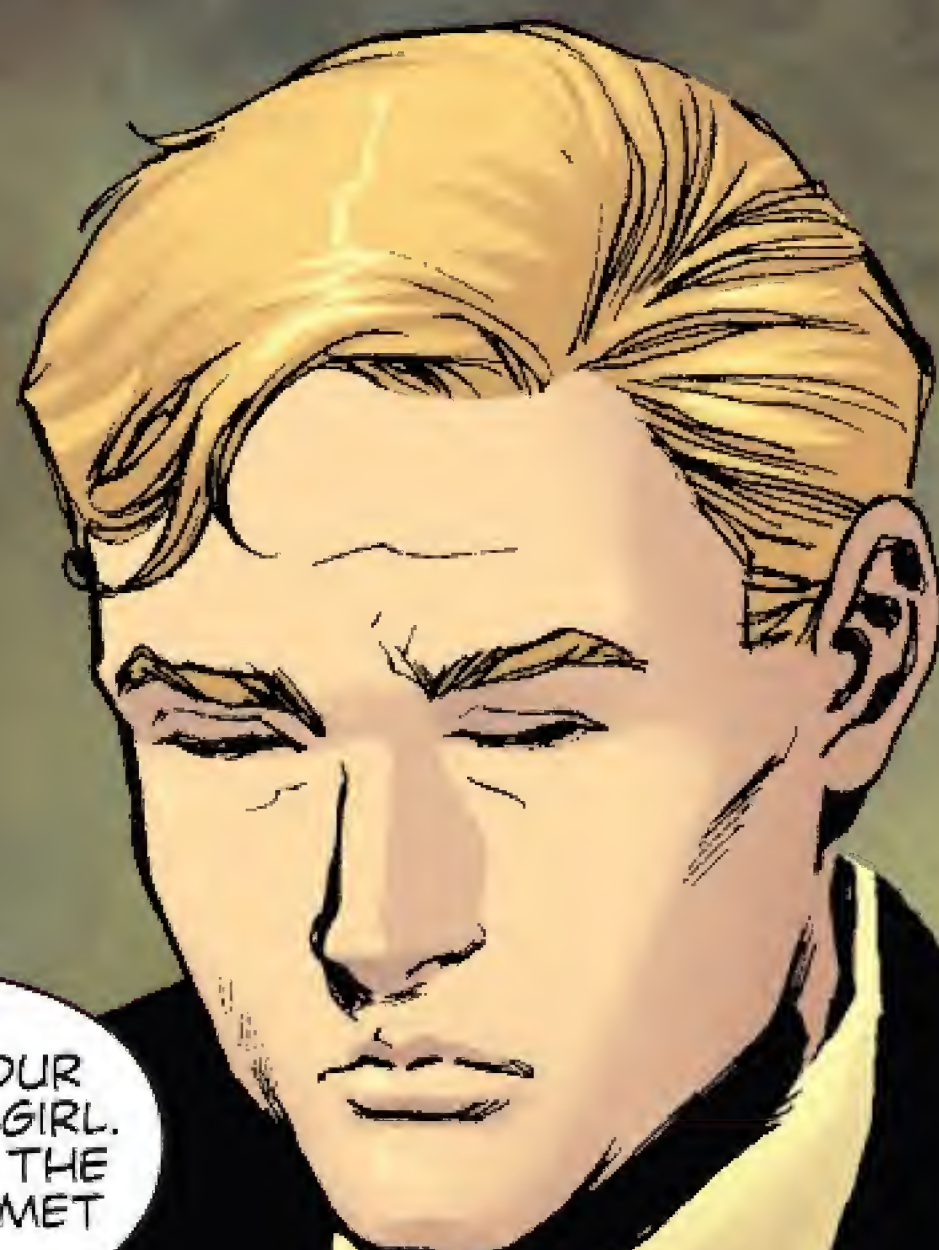


HEY, DID
YOU JUST CRACK
A JOKE? THAT'S
PROGRESS!

WAIT, SCRATCH
THAT. PROGRESS
DOESN'T GET ME
A SAILBOAT.



LET'S
TALK ABOUT YOUR
MISSING DREAM GIRL.
TELL ME ABOUT THE
FIRST TIME YOU MET
VAMPIRELLA.





"I WAS EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD, LIVING IN HOLLYWOOD AND GOING TO FILM SCHOOL."

"I HAD JUST WALKED OUT OF A RECORD STORE WHEN I SAW HER. SHE WAS AMAZING."



"WHAT WAS SHE WAS DOING?"

"KICKING THE CRAP OUT OF HORRIBLE THINGS."

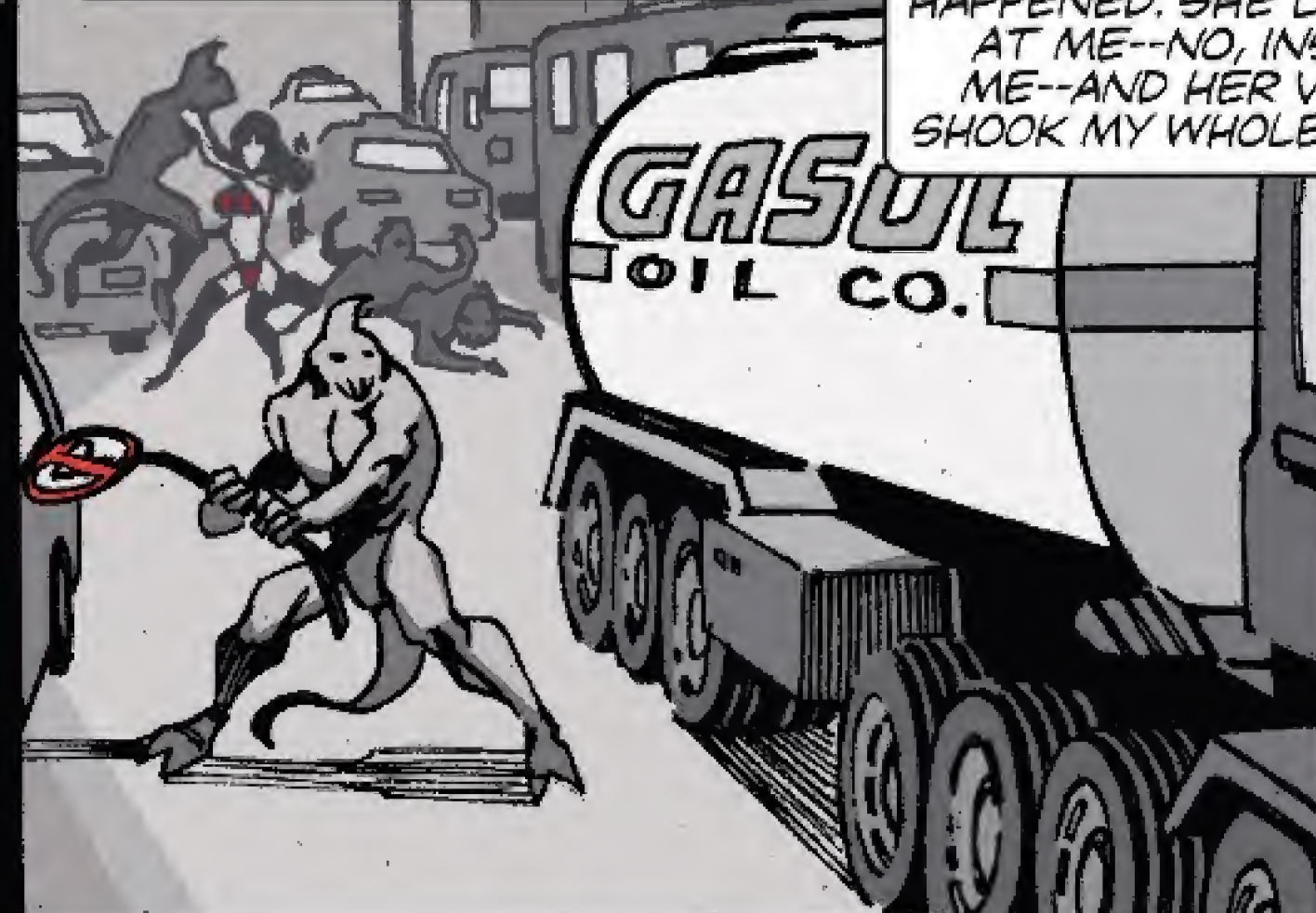
"IT WAS BIGGER, AND MORE REAL THAN ANY MOVIE I'D EVER SEEN. SO MUCH NOISE, AND THIS IMMENSE HEAT..."



"IT TOOK ME A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO REALIZE HOW DANGEROUS THE SITUATION ACTUALLY WAS."

"THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED. SHE LOOKED AT ME--NO, INSIDE ME--AND HER VOICE SHOOK MY WHOLE BODY."

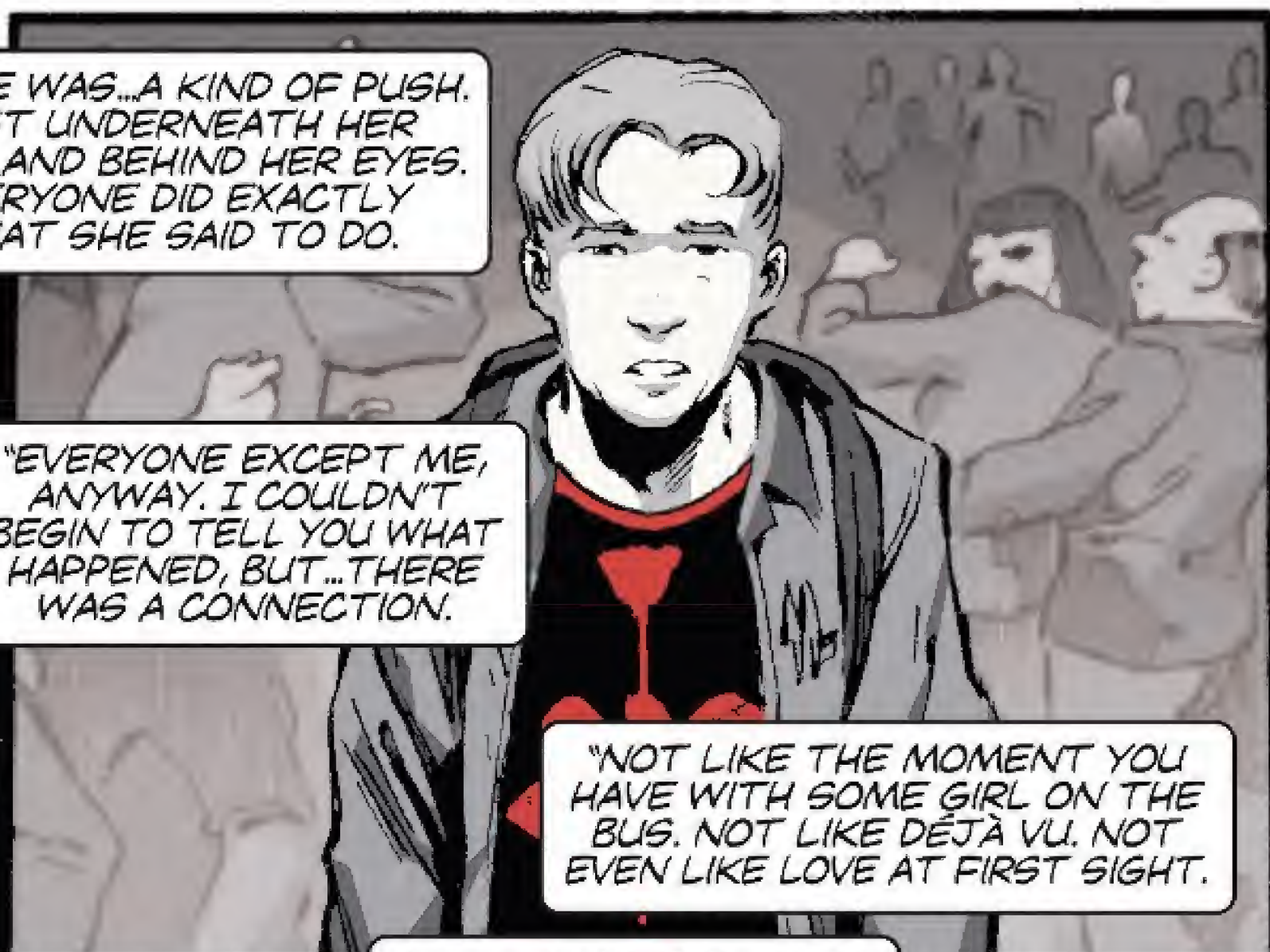
GET OUT OF HERE NOW!





"THERE WAS...A KIND OF PUSH. JUST UNDERNEATH HER VOICE, AND BEHIND HER EYES. EVERYONE DID EXACTLY WHAT SHE SAID TO DO.

"EVERYONE EXCEPT ME, ANYWAY. I COULDN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED, BUT...THERE WAS A CONNECTION.



"NOT LIKE THE MOMENT YOU HAVE WITH SOME GIRL ON THE BUS. NOT LIKE DÉJÀ VU. NOT EVEN LIKE LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

"I WAS AWARE OF HER ON LEVELS THAT I NEVER EVEN KNEW EXISTED.

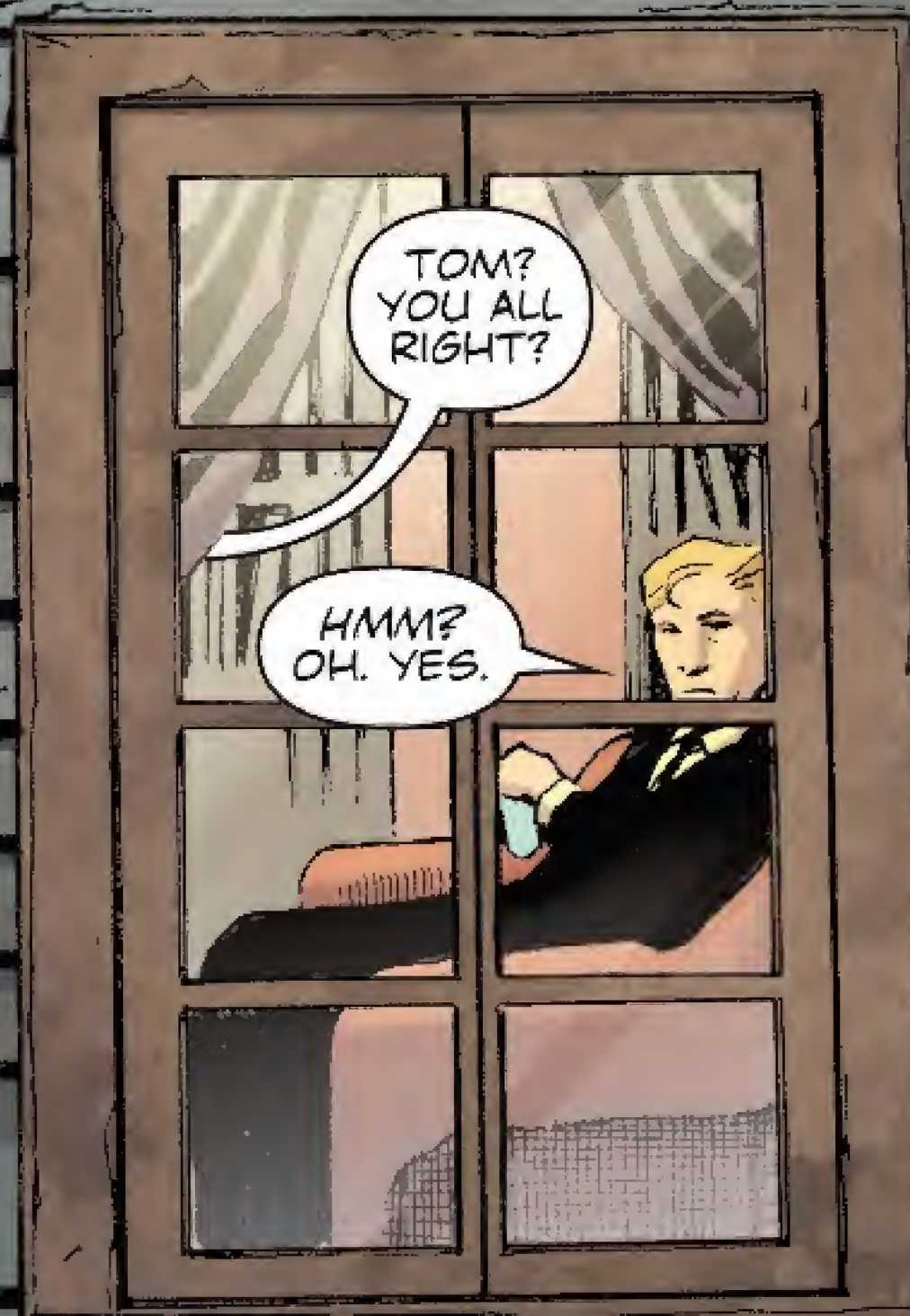


"THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN... BOOM. THE BIG EXPLOSION SHE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT EVERYBODY FROM FINALLY HAPPENED.

"EVERYTHING GOT CONFUSED. I LOST TRACK OF HER. I COULD ONLY FOCUS ON MY OWN SITUATION...

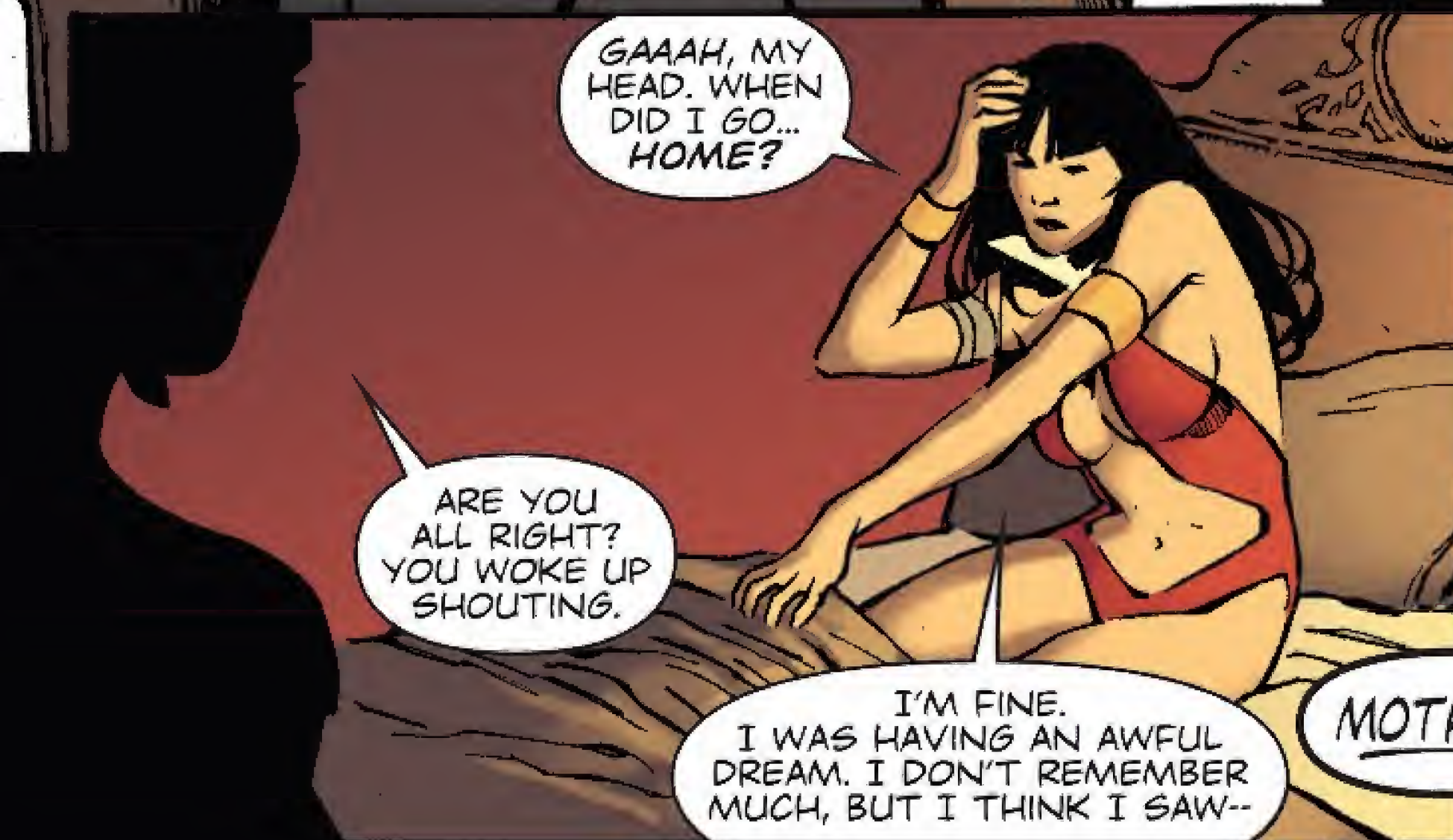
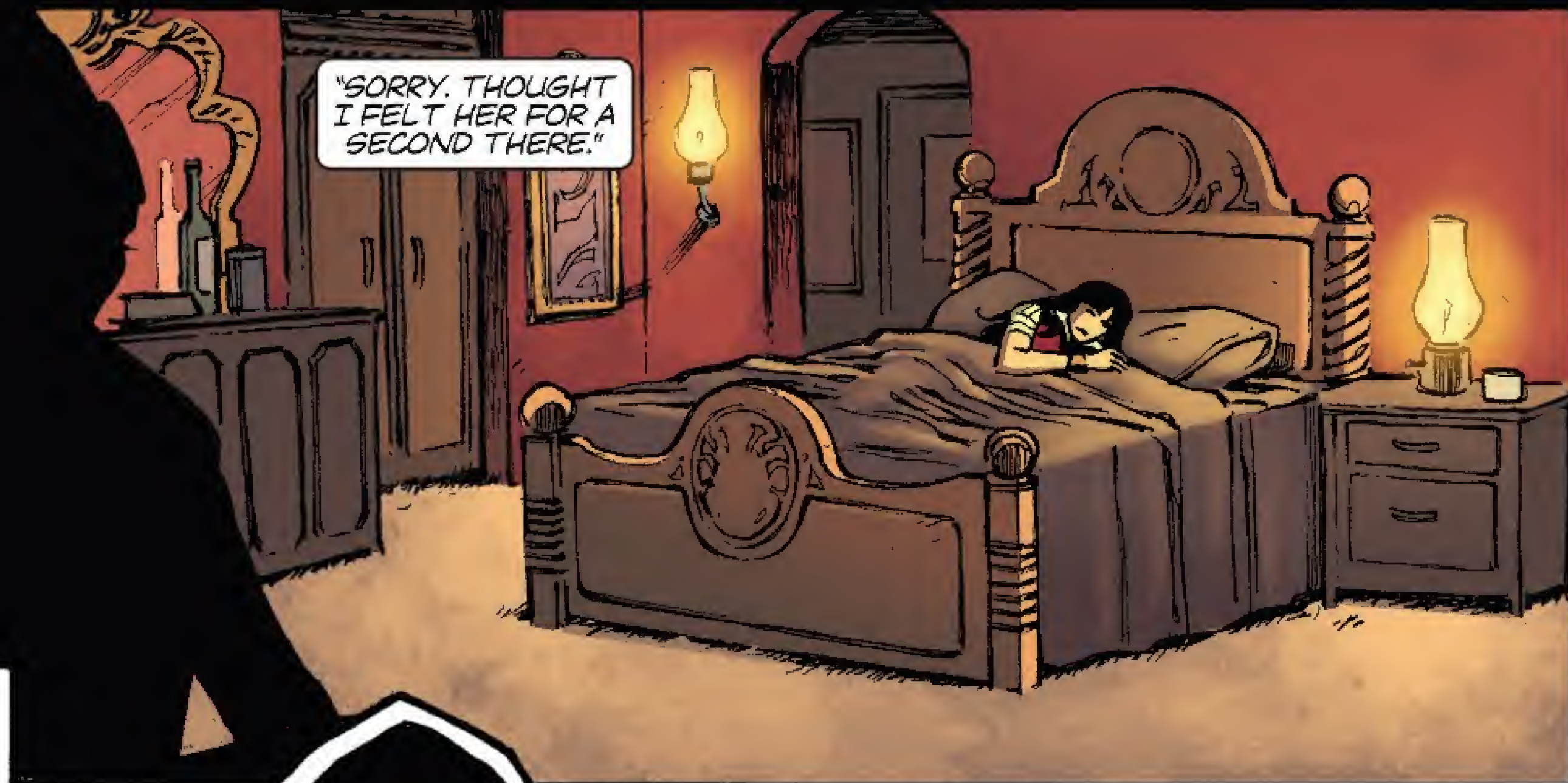


"...AND THEN IT ALL JUST CUT TO BLACK."



TOM?
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

HMM?
OH. YES.





IN THE FLESH.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AWAKE AND AWARE, DAUGHTER.

YOU WEREN'T IN THE BEST WAY WHEN I FOUND YOU.



YOU FOUND ME? WHY THE HELL WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME, LILITH?

DO YOU HAVE SOME NEW AND EXCITING WAY TO HURT ME? OR ARE YOU JUST STICKING TO THE CLASSICS?



YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO REACT THIS WAY.



I'M NOT KEEPING YOU HERE, BY THE WAY. YOU CAN LEAVE ANY TIME YOU'D LIKE.

BUT IF THERE'S EVEN A SINGLE ATOM IN YOUR HEART THAT DOESN'T DESPISE ME, PLEASE STAY AND HEAR ME OUT.

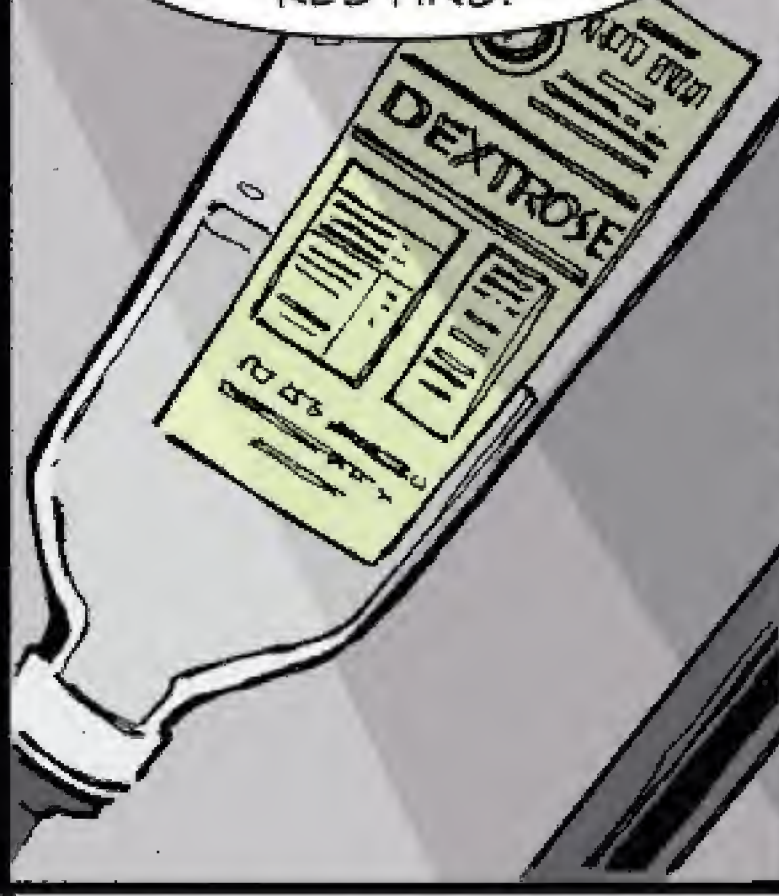
I BELIEVE I CAN HELP YOU FIND ADAM VAN HELSING.

"MY PARENTS WERE GONE ALREADY, AND I WAS AN ONLY CHILD. NO ROOMMATE, NO GIRLFRIEND, NO DOGS OR CATS. NOTHING TIED TO MY BOAT, YOU KNOW?"

"JUST ME, MY BUZZING HEAD, AND SCREWED-UP MEMORIES OF A WOMAN THAT NO ONE ELSE COULD REMEMBER SEEING THAT DAY."



I WAS IN THE DARK FOR ABOUT A WEEK, THANKS TO SOME SERIOUS BRAIN TRAUMA. ON THE SEVENTH DAY, I STOPPED RESTING.



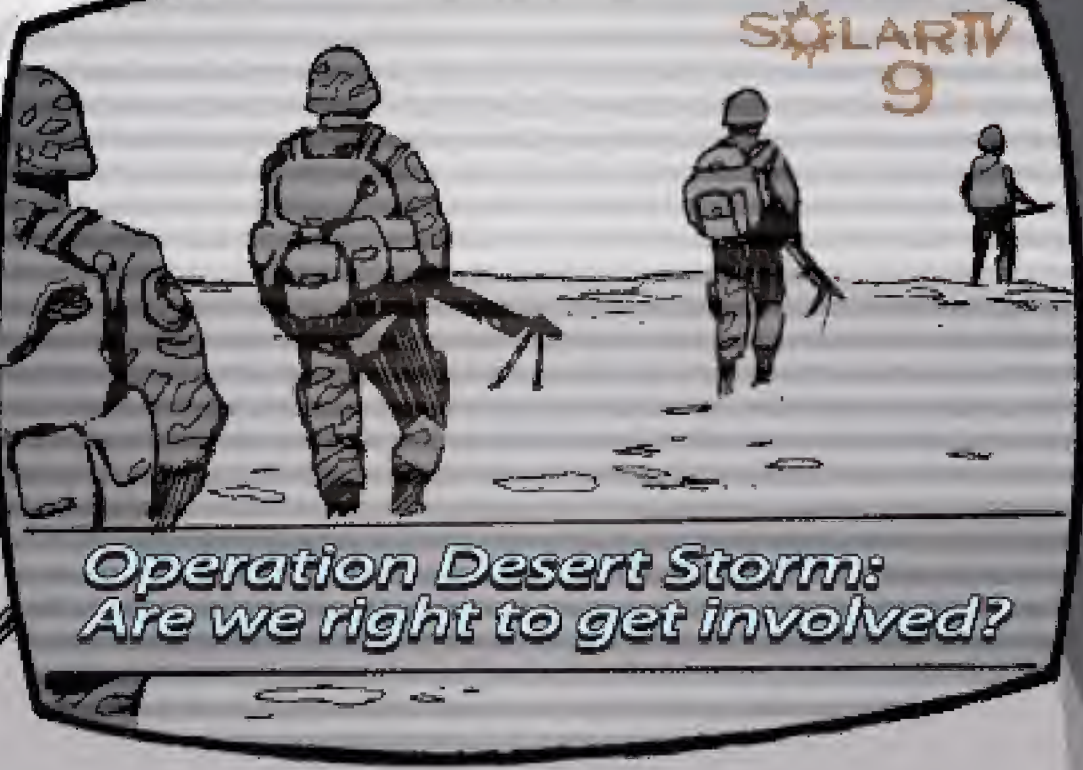
--I COULD SEE THE WORKINGS OF A GREAT CONFLICT, LIKE AN ELABORATE CLOCK THAT WAS TICKING DOWN THE MINUTES 'TIL ARMAGEDDON--



JESUS.



"I THOUGHT I WAS LOSING MY GRIP."







OBVIOUSLY, SHE CAME BACK INTO YOUR LIFE AT SOME POINT.

EVENTUALLY.

HOW LONG?



ABOUT SEVENTEEN YEARS.

DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU WERE WAITING FOR HER ALL THAT TIME?

YES.



WHY?

HONESTLY?

BECAUSE THE DAY I LEFT THE HOSPITAL, A WOMAN CAME DOWN OUT OF A FLYING SAUCER AND ASKED ME TO.







SAY THAT
LAST PART
AGAIN.



I SHOULD
GO BACK A BIT
FURTHER.

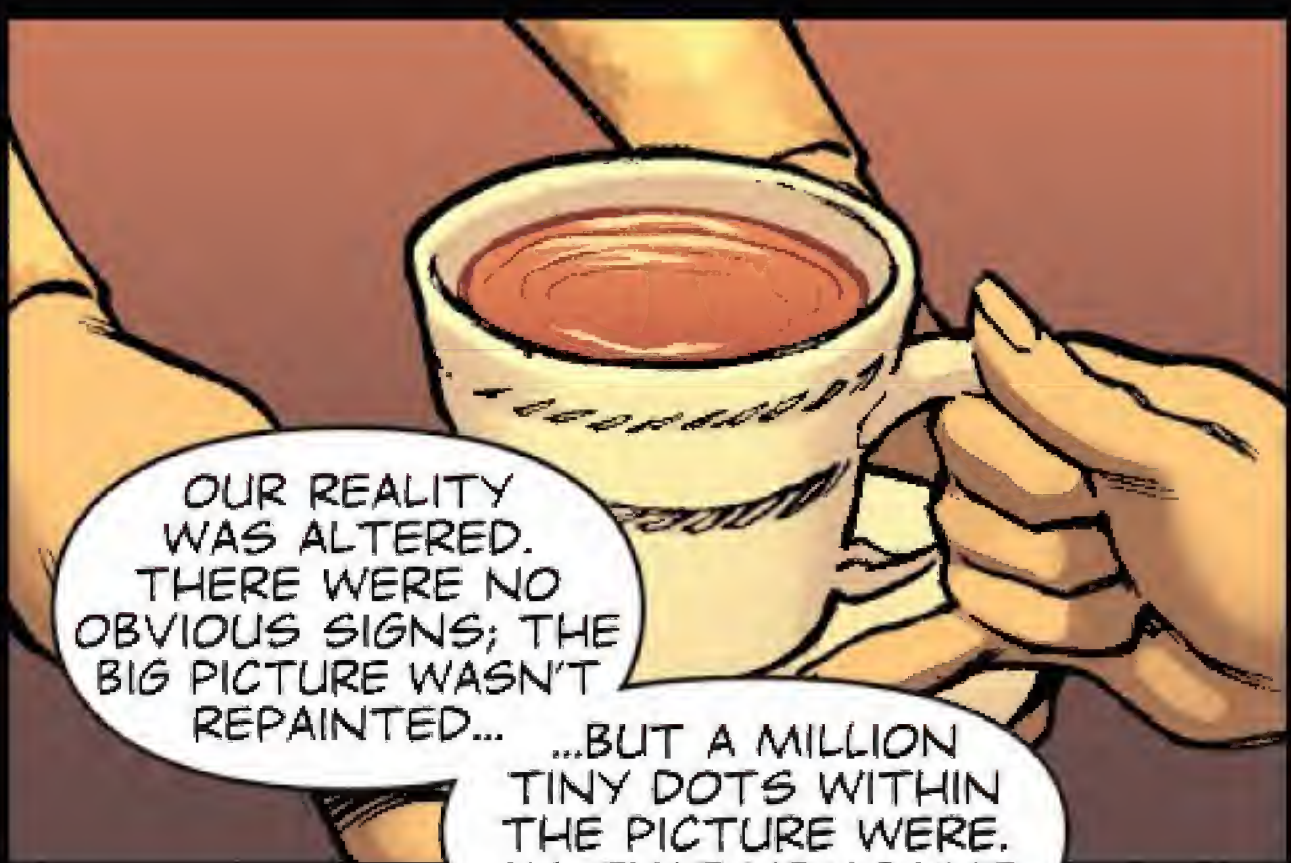
YOU BANISHED
DRACULA FROM OUR
PLANE OF REALITY,
BUT HE WAS SAVING
HIS BEST TRICK
FOR LAST.

DRACULA'S EXIT
TRIGGERED AN ENERGY
WAVE THAT SPREAD
ACROSS THE PLANET.



THE ENERGY WAVE DIED OFF
WITHIN A FEW DAYS, BUT ITS
EFFECTS COULD RESONATE
FOR YEARS.

WHAT
EFFECTS?



OUR REALITY
WAS ALTERED.
THERE WERE NO
OBVIOUS SIGNS; THE
BIG PICTURE WASN'T
REPAINTED...

...BUT A MILLION
TINY DOTS WITHIN
THE PICTURE WERE.
ALL THAT NEW PAINT
IS STILL WET.



SOME THINGS
CHANGED FOR THE
BETTER. I THINK I
MAY BE ONE OF
THEM.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ADAM?

WAIT, NO. ANSWER THIS: WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU THIS TIME?



YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T.





SHOW ME.



SHOW ME HOW YOU'VE CHANGED.

I WILL.

THANK YOU.



THIS... ISN'T A HOUSE.



IT MAY BE UNCONVENTIONAL, BUT THERE ARE HIDDEN CHARMS.



WE'RE HEADED THIS WAY. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND GETTING YOUR FEET WET.

WET FEET
ARE FINE. IF WE GO
THAT WAY, I'M MORE
CONCERNED ABOUT
DROWNING.

DON'T FRET.
MOTHER'S HERE.



I WILL
NOT LET YOU
DOWN AGAIN, MY
DAUGHTER.

LET'S
GO FIND YOUR
LONG-LOST
LOVE.



TO BE CONTINUED!

DYNAMITE
28

VAMPIRELLA®



RENAUD
2012

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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
11:45 P.M.







TURNABOUT!
PIGGY'S GONNA
COOK THE
BIRD!

GHOOOMPH



TURNED
TAIL AND RAN, THE
COWARDS! BEGS
YER PARDON,
PROFESSOR--

LET
THEM GO.

WE HAVE
OUR QUARRY.



YOU MAY FIND
THIS HARD TO
RECONCILE,
AND I CAN'T
SAY I BLAME
YOU...

...BUT I NEVER WISHED
YOU ANY HARM. I'D
HOPED FOR EXACTLY
THE OPPOSITE,
ACTUALLY.

I DECEIVED
YOU, AND I
APOLOGIZE.

I AM NOT YOUR
FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD
PSYCHIATRIST, THOUGH I
AM A MAN OF SCIENCE
AND REASON.

I'M CALLED
QUATERMASS,
AND I'VE COME
TO SAVE THE
WHOLE OF
REALITY.

SOMEWHERE BENEATH
LOS ANGELES

YOU NEVER EXPLAINED HOW YOU CAME TO RESCUE ME FROM THE HUNTERS IN THE MONSTER MASKS, LILITH.

I FOUND YOU BY STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS OF PREPARATION AND DUMB LUCK.

GOOD EVENING, VEXO.

WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU'D STRUCK OUT ON YOUR OWN, AFTER LOSING ADAM...

...I STARTED LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP YOU.

MY NETWORK OF LESS-THAN-SAVORY ASSOCIATES DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW THAT I'D TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF. I WANTED THEM HELPFUL.

FIRST, I LEARNED THAT ADAM WAS IN HELL. I TURNED MY ATTENTION TO FINDING YOU...

...AND THAT'S WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE HUNSMEN, AND THE BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD.

THAT'S FINE. THANK YOU. BY THE WAY...

...ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?!

HAVE FAITH, DAUGHTER...



...I'VE TAKEN
THIS VOYAGE
BEFORE.



IT'S JUST SO
MAJESTIC.

DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT
IS TO EXPLAIN THE BEAUTY
OF HELL TO SOMEONE?



OF COURSE
I DO. I'M HAPPY WE
COULD SHARE THIS,
CIRCUMSTANCES BE
DAMNED.

**PORT OF IMMOLATRA
THE OUTBURN
HELL**

WELCOME TO
THE OUTBURN,
VAMPIRELLA.

THANK YOU,
BAZRYS. MOTHER
DIDN'T MENTION
THAT YOU WERE
INVOLVED, BUT I'M
GLAD YOU ARE.

SHE DIDN'T
KNOW.

WE'RE REACHED
A NEXUS OF MUTUAL
CONCERN HERE...

MY INVOLVEMENT IS
LIMITED TO DELIVERING
BAD NEWS.



FORGIVE US
OUR DEPARTURE,
THOMAS
CRISWELL. WE
SHALL RETURN
FOR YOU.



SO MUCH
FOR NOT
HAVING BRAIN
DAMAGE...



WELCOME,
THOMAS. PLEASE
DO NOT BE
ALARMED.

I AM ZARALYN,
THE CONJURESS.

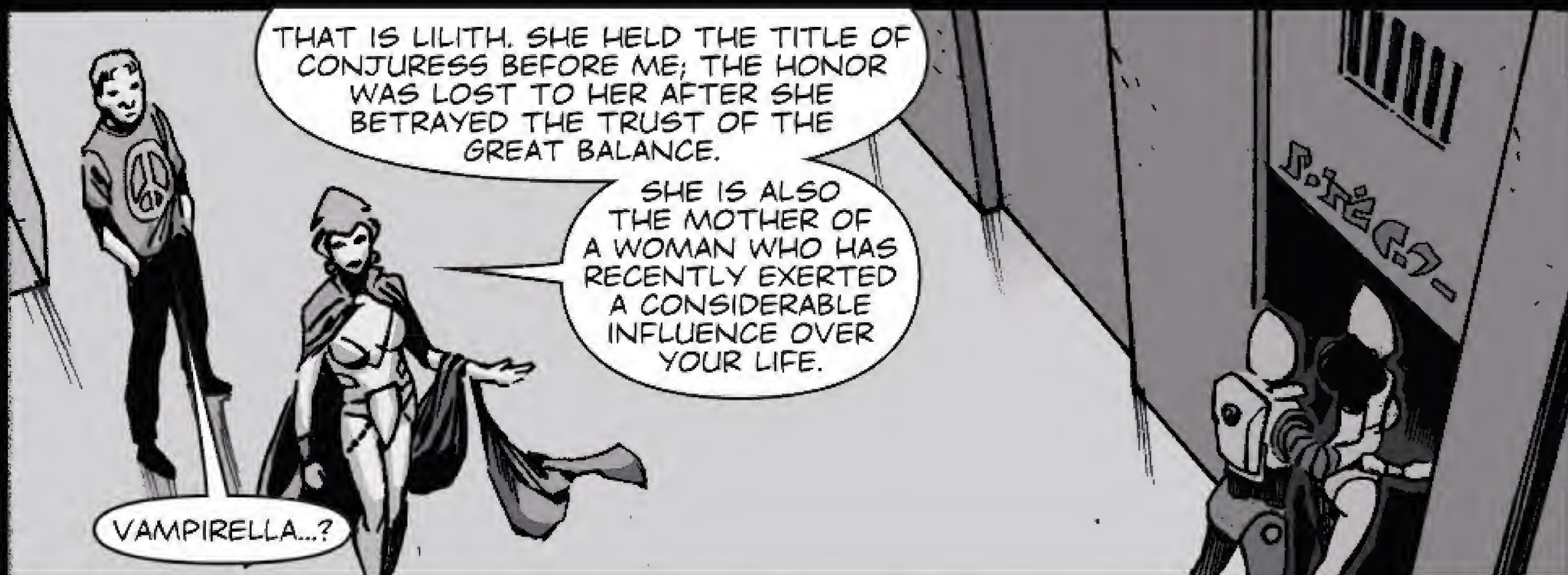
YOUR
ASSISTANCE IS
REQUESTED.





THIS IS A BIT TOO MUCH TO TAKE IN.

DO YOU MIND ME ASKING WHO THAT WOMAN IS?



THAT IS LILITH. SHE HELD THE TITLE OF CONJURESS BEFORE ME; THE HONOR WAS LOST TO HER AFTER SHE BETRAYED THE TRUST OF THE GREAT BALANCE.

SHE IS ALSO THE MOTHER OF A WOMAN WHO HAS RECENTLY EXERTED A CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER YOUR LIFE.

VAMPIRELLA...?



THERE IS A GREAT TOME KNOWN AS THE CRIMSON CHRONICLES. THIS BOOK FORETELLS YOUR DESTINY, THOMAS.

IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW YOUR OWN FUTURE. I WILL GUIDE YOU, IF YOU WILL ALLOW IT.




YES. JUST TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

I DON'T HAVE A FUTURE OF MY OWN RIGHT NOW...



...AND I'D RATHER HAVE ONE WITH HER.



YOU BROUGHT THIS UPON YOURSELF, TOM. YOU WERE SO INSECURE... SO DESPERATE TO PLEASE VAMPIRELLA...

...THAT YOU SOUGHT OUT ADAM VAN HELSING AND BECAME AN ODDLY-HEROIC PSEUDO-CUCKOLD. I WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU WALK AWAY.

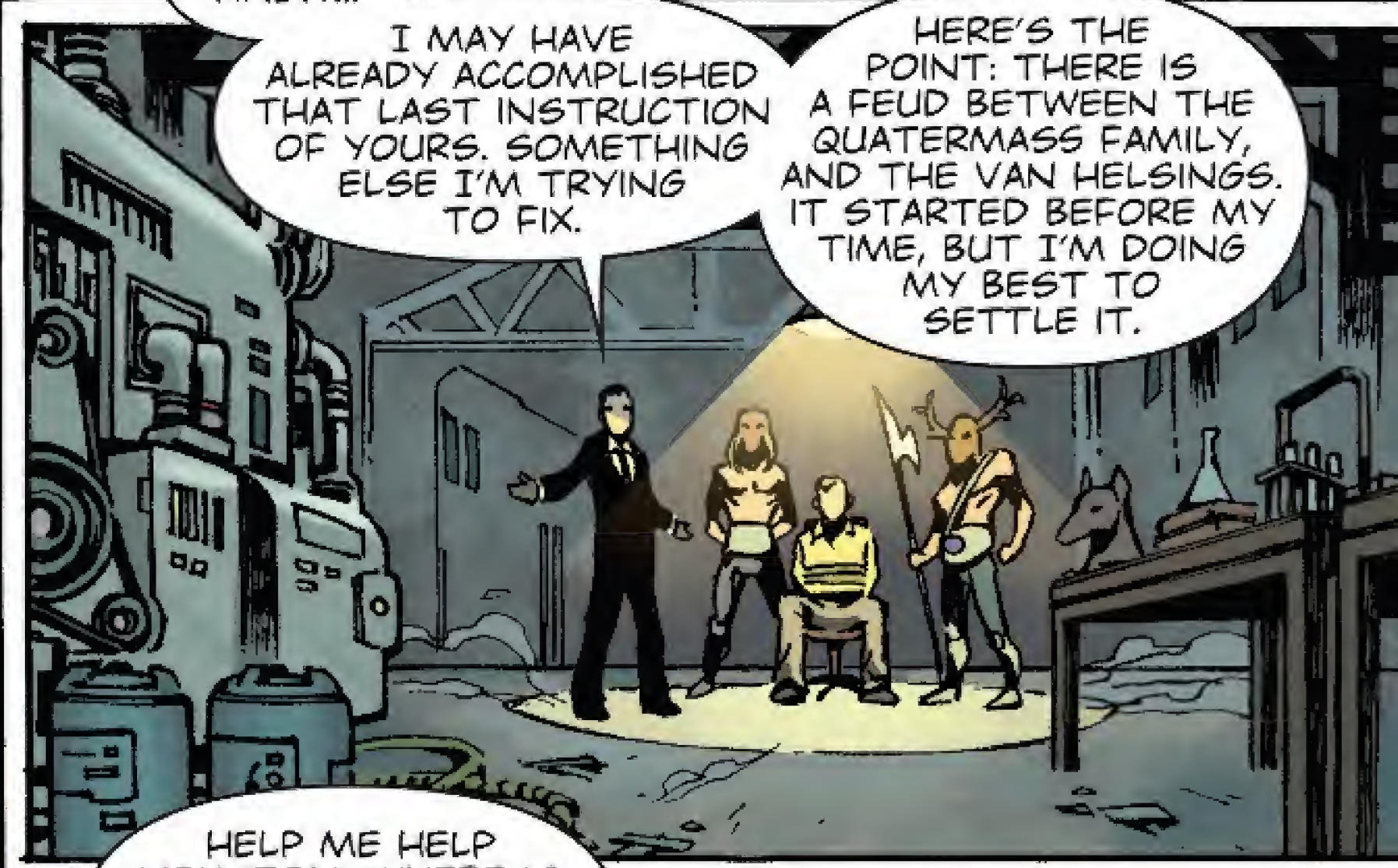
WELL, I'M DEFINITELY NOT PAYING THE BILL. ALSO, I'M CANCELING THE MONTHLY VISITS FROM HERE ON OUT.

ALSO: GO #*& YOURSELF FOREVER.

OH, IF YOU ONLY KNEW...

I MAY HAVE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED THAT LAST INSTRUCTION OF YOURS. SOMETHING ELSE I'M TRYING TO FIX.


HERE'S THE POINT: THERE IS A FEUD BETWEEN THE QUATERMASS FAMILY, AND THE VAN HELSINGS. IT STARTED BEFORE MY TIME, BUT I'M DOING MY BEST TO SETTLE IT.



HELP ME HELP YOU, TOM. WHERE IS YOUR MAGIC BOOK--THE GRIMOIRE THAT YOU SO READILY BONDED WITH?

I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT IT--

BUT I KNOW ABOUT IT. WHERE IS IT?

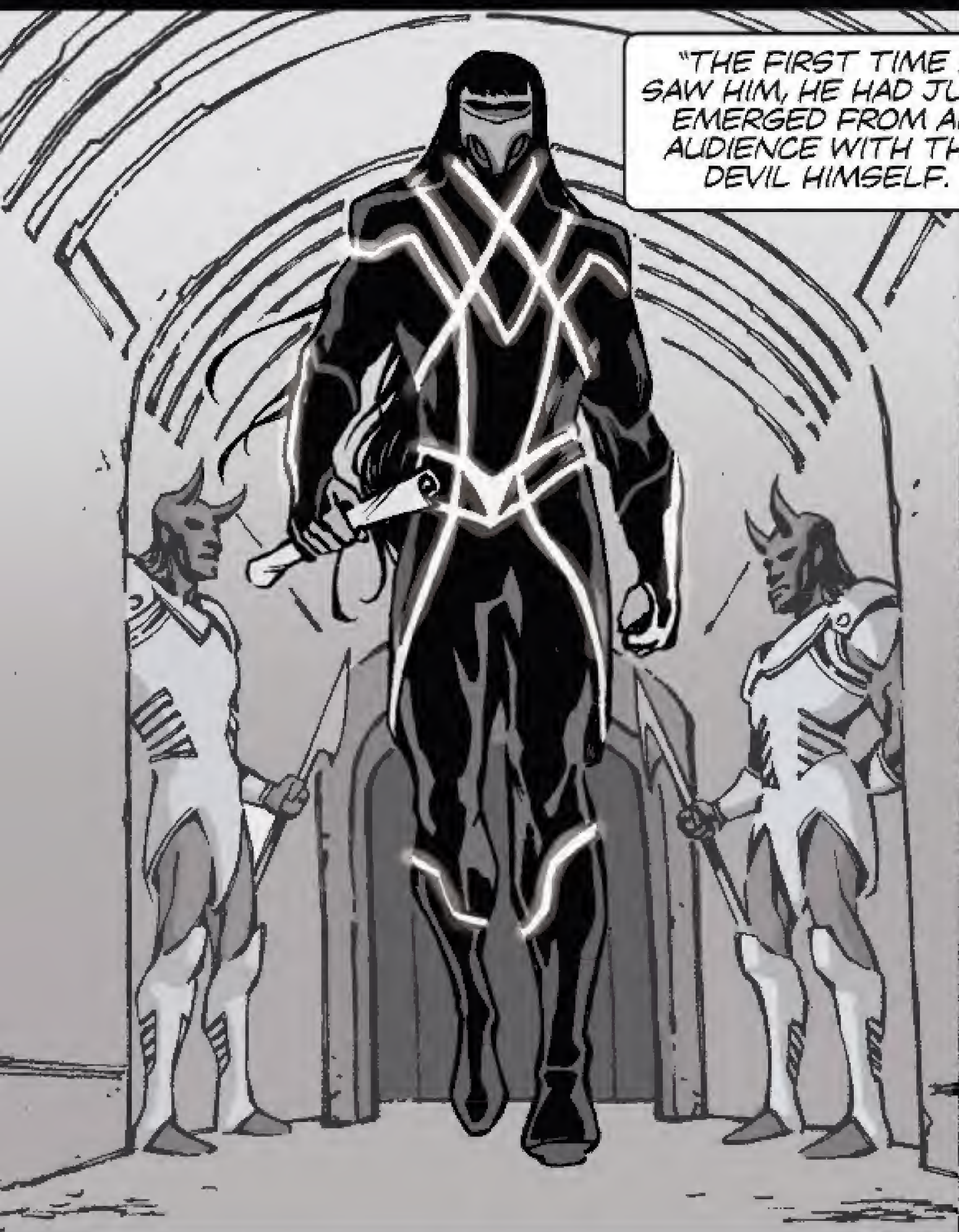


THE GRIMOIRE BURNT OUT AFTER IT WAS USED AS PART OF THE SPELL TO DRIVE DRACULA AWAY.

LAST TIME I SAW THAT BOOK, IT HAD BEEN LABELED AS USELESS, AND PUT INTO STORAGE...ON THE MOON.

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING.





"THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, HE HAD JUST EMERGED FROM AN AUDIENCE WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF.



"IN A THOUSAND YEARS, I'D NEVER SEEN THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE FROM SOMEONE LEAVING SUCH A MEETING.

"I VOLUNTEERED TO ESCORT HIM AROUND, ACCOMPANIED BY A GROUP OF CHANCELLORS.

"WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE WANTED, WHAT KIND OF DEAL HE'D MADE, OR EVEN WHO HE WAS...



"...SO I WAS QUITE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT HE'D STAKED A CLAIM TO SEVERAL SQUARE MILES OF OUTBURN TERRITORY...

"...AND OUR DARK MAJESTY HAD APPROVED IT."



THE MAN YOU SEEK IS INSIDE THAT DOMED FORTRESS, AND ADAM VAN HELSING IS WITH HIM.

THE ONLY WAY TO APPROACH IS BY CROSSING THE FIVE-MILE EXPANSE OF HIS TERRITORY. THE OUTBURN GOVERNORS HAVE REFUSED ANY USE OF ADJACENT LANDS FOR THIS QUEST.

CONSIDERABLE DANGER IS TO BE ASSUMED.



SO...
WHAT'S
THE BAD
NEWS?

THE LOCAL
GOVERNORS AREN'T THE
ONLY ONES WHO HAVE
DENIED YOU SUPPORT. NO
DENIZEN OF HELL SHALL
BE PERMITTED TO ASSIST
YOU, ON STRICT THREAT
OF REPRISAL.

I REMINDED HIS
MAJESTY OF YOUR
RECENT WORK ON
HELL'S BEHALF,
VAMPIRELLA...

...BUT MY
ENDORSEMENT
GAINED YOU VERY
LITTLE. YOU'LL HAVE
ARMORED MOUNTS...



...AND YOUR
CHOICE OF
WEAPONRY.

NOT ALL
BAD NEWS,
THEN. YOU
HONOR US
WITH YOUR
EFFORT,
BAZRYS.



MOTHER.

WE HAVE A
LONG, BLOODY
ROAD BEHIND
US...

...BUT YOU'VE GIVEN
ME A REASON TO LOOK AT THE
ROAD AHEAD OF US FOR ONCE. I
APPRECIATE YOU BRINGING ME
THIS FAR, BUT THIS IS MY
MISSION NOW.

YOU DON'T HAVE
TO KEEP GOING.



VERY FEW
MOTHERS GET THE
CHANCE TO LITERALLY
MARCH INTO HELL
BESIDE THEIR
CHILD.



"OF COURSE I HAVE
TO CONTINUE ON."



SHE
CAME.



SHE'S
HERE.

I DIDN'T
BELIEVE.

I DIDN'T
REALIZE IT UNTIL
THIS PRECISE
MOMENT, BUT
IT'S TRUE.

I DIDN'T
BELIEVE I'D EVER
SEE YOU AGAIN,
VAMPIRELLA.





"YOU WILL BE TESTED."

"NOT FOR MY OWN TROUBLED AMUSEMENT. NO, THIS GAUNTLET BEFORE YOU IS A NECESSARY PIECE OF THE LARGER PUZZLE."

"PERHAPS SOMEDAY, YOU WILL THANK ME FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH YOUR ESTRANGED MOTHER."

"I'M SURE THERE ARE MANY CHILDREN WHO PRAY EACH NIGHT FOR SUCH A REUNION!"



THIS IS ALL WRONG. SOMEONE FIND HOPPER RIGHT NOW!

CAN'T GO FORWARD, WE CAN ONLY GO BACK ONCE MORE. UNPREDICTABLE AT BEST--



YOU NEED MY HELP, RIGHT? I MAY NOT HAVE THE GRIMOIRE, BUT MAYBE IF YOU TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY...

MAYBE WE COULD DISCUSS OPTIONS, BUT-- CALIBRATION.

HMMM.

WHERE ARE THE CATALYST CHARTS?

I NEED TO SPEAK WITH HOPPER! HAS ANYONE FOUND HIM YET?!



THERE YOU ARE.

GOOD, GOOD.

HOPPER, THIS IS THOMAS CRISWELL. WELL, OF COURSE YOU KNOW THAT.

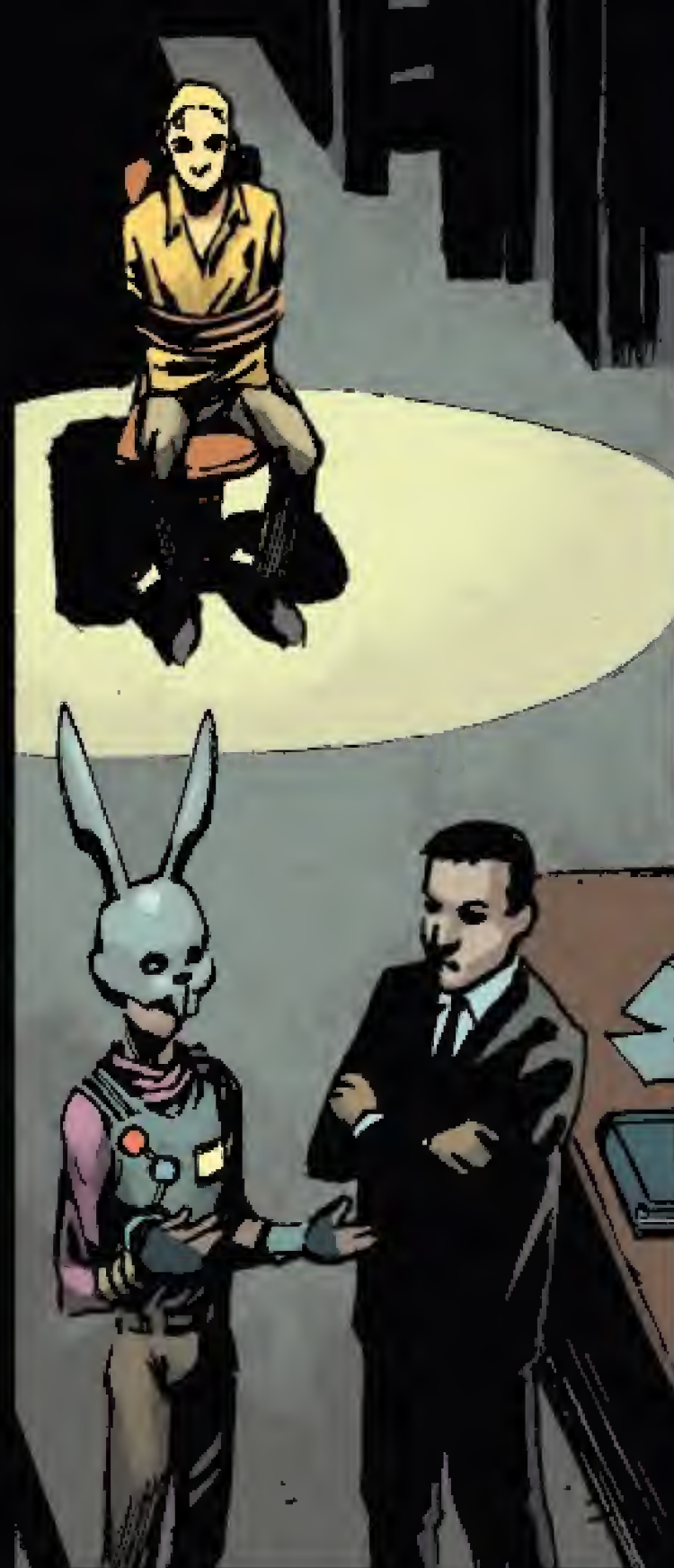
TOM, HOPPER. YOU HAVEN'T MET HIM YET. THAT IS, YOU'RE MEETING HIM NOW, BUT--



READY FOR THIS?

HE DOESN'T HAVE THE BOOK!





JESUS,
THESE
PEOPLE.

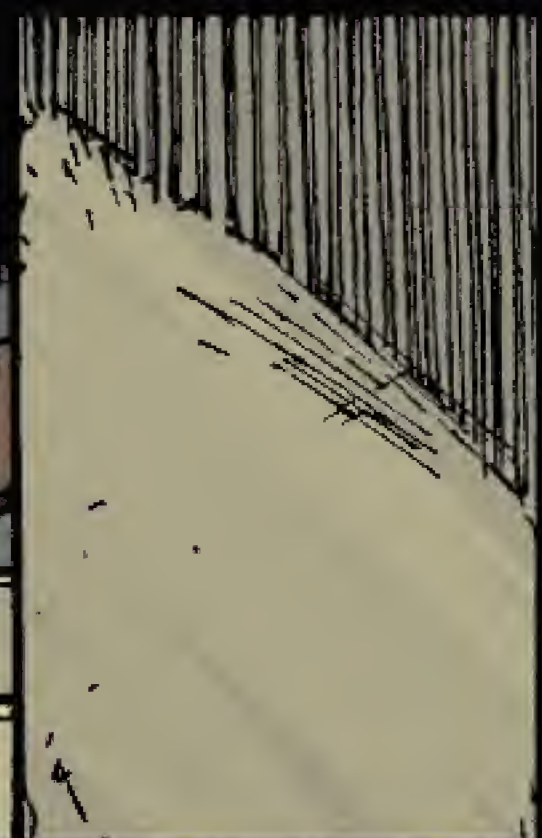


I'M SORRY,
HOPPER. IT'S A
DRASTIC OPTION,
AND YOUR OPINION
IS VALUED, AS
ALWAYS.



THE FUTURE
DEPENDS ON
OUR SUCCESS
NOW.

HISTORY IS
WRITTEN BY THE
VICTORS.



THERE'S NO
COMFORTABLE
WAY TO SAY
THIS, TOM:

WE'RE
GOING TO
NEED YOUR
BRAIN.



I...

HNNNH

...I THINK
WE'RE DONE
WITH...

SAVE YOUR ENERGY. CONCENTRATE
ON HEALING.

YOU MAY BE
RIGHT ABOUT THE
LAWN GAMES BEING
OVER, BUT I'M
EXPECTING MORE
SURPRISES.

I CAN FEEL
HIM. ADAM IS
DEFINITELY
HERE.



YOUR
SENSES
SERVE YOU
WELL.

THIS
IS A GREAT
DAY FOR A
REUNION.

I CAN ONLY
IMAGINE THE WARMTH
COURSING THROUGH
YOUR SOUL RIGHT NOW,
VAMPIRELLA.

LOSING SOMEONE
WHO IS A KEY TO YOUR
OWN INNER PEACE AND
CONTENTMENT IS A
TRAGIC, DESTRUCTIVE
EVENT...

...BUT NOWHERE
NEAR AS POWERFUL AS
THE MOMENT WHEN
YOU SEE THAT PERSON
RETURN TO YOU, SAFE
AND WHOLE.



WE'RE GOING
HOME SOON, ADAM.
SORRY I KEPT YOU
WAITING.

I KNEW
YOU'D COME.
I ALWAYS
KNEW.



THERE IS NO
COMPLICATED
SCHEME.

FACE ME...



...DEFEAT
ME...

...AND WALK
INTO THE SUNSET
WITH THE MAN YOU
LOVE MORE THAN
ANYTHING ELSE IN
THE WORLD.

ZZZHKK



UREEEEEEEEEEENNN

NO!
OH GOD,
PLEASE!

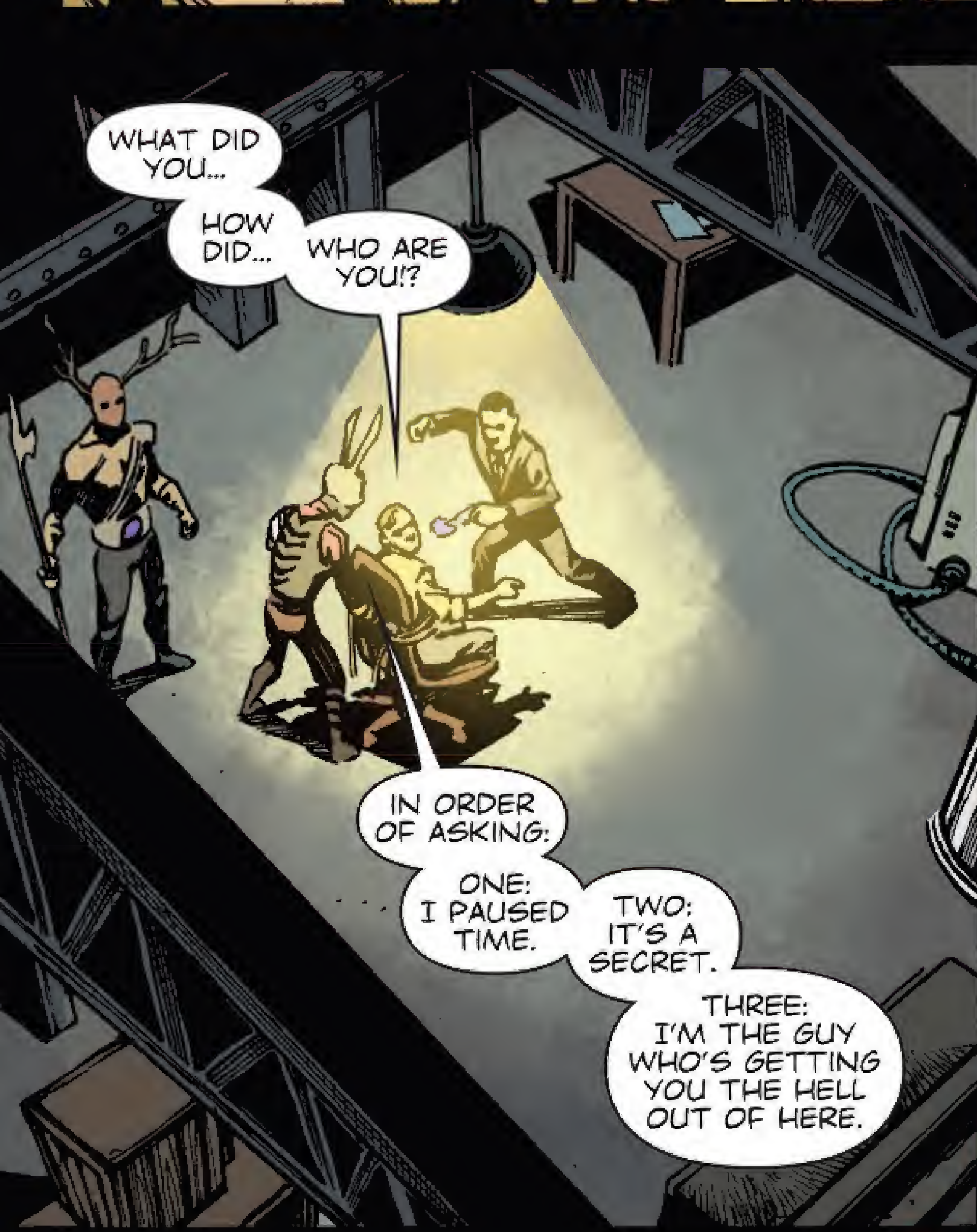
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO DO
THIS!

AAAAAAAAAAAA--



AAAAA--

HUNH?



WHAT DID
YOU...

HOW
DID...

WHO ARE
YOU!?

IN ORDER
OF ASKING:

ONE:
I PAUSED
TIME.

TWO:
IT'S A
SECRET.

THREE:
I'M THE GUY
WHO'S GETTING
YOU THE HELL
OUT OF HERE.



THAT'S
GREAT.
THANKS.

WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE? WHAT'S
THE DEAL WITH
QUATERMASS?

I'M SORRY,
BUT WE CAN'T
GET INTO THAT
RIGHT NOW. YOU'LL
FIND OUT SOON
ENOUGH.





SEEING
YOUR MOVES IN
PERSON IS MORE
IMPRESSIVE THAN
I COULD'VE EVER
HOPED FOR.

THEY'LL
BE THE LAST
THING YOU
EVER SEE...!

I KNOW
BETTER.



I DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THIS.

ALSO
UNTRUE, BUT IT'S
NOT YOUR FAULT
THAT YOU DON'T
KNOW--

HYAAH!



I'M
NOT SCREWING
AROUND WITH YOU
PSYCHOPATHS
ANYMORE!



VAMPIRELLA,
NO!

YOU
CAN'T KILL
HIM!

WHAT?
ADAM, HE
KIDNAPPED
YOU!

GIVE ME
ONE REASON WHY I
SHOULDN'T CUT OFF
HIS GODDAMNED
HEAD--



IT'S OKAY,
ADAM. I'LL
EXPLAIN IT
TO HER.

KILL ME
IF YOU'D LIKE,
BUT YOU DESERVE
TO KNOW THE
TRUTH BEFORE
YOU DO.



SATYR AND
CIRCE--!



HELLO,
MOTHER.
MY NAME IS
LUKAS VAN
HELSING...

...AND IT'S
A PLEASURE
TO FINALLY
MEET YOU.

TO BE CONCLUDED IN...

**"SET THE CONTROLS FOR
THE HEART OF THE SUN"**

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INDEPENDENTLY-CONTROLLED TERRITORY
WITHIN "THE OUTBURN"
HELL



LOOK AT ME. LOOK ME IN THE EYES--

--AND SAY IT AGAIN.



MY NAME IS LUKAS VAN HELSING, AND I AM YOUR SON.

YOUR ANGER IS JUSTIFIED. IF THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU, STRIKE ME DOWN.

IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING IN THE END.



NNGH

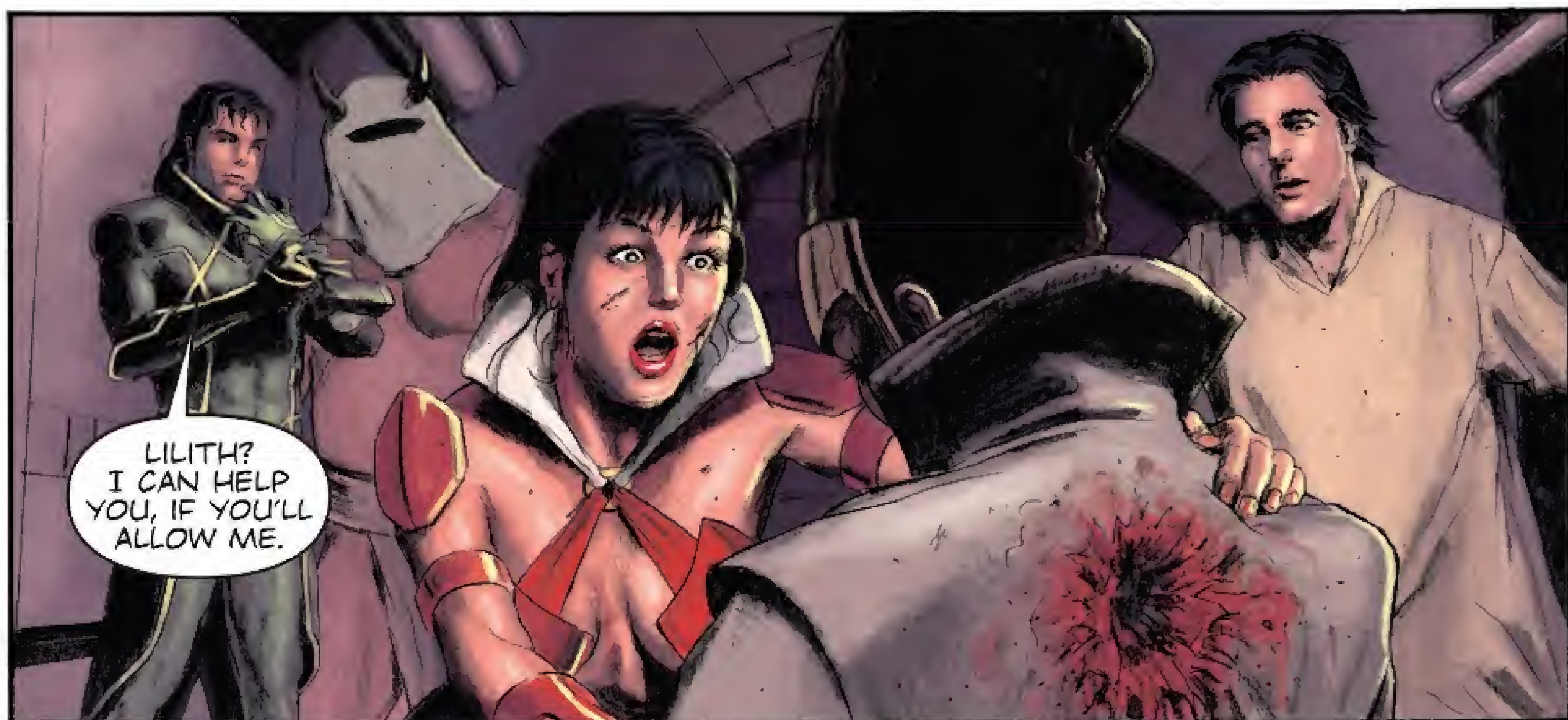


MOTHER--!



SO MANY VARIABLES. LILITH. ANOMALY? OUTLIER? OBSERVE. ADJUST.

GUARDS, LET MY FATHER THROUGH.



LILITH?
I CAN HELP
YOU, IF YOU'LL
ALLOW ME.



ADAM, YOU
HAVE THE MOST
EXPERIENCE WITH
LUKAS. CAN WE
TRUST HIM?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I'M
SAYING THIS,
BUT...YES. I
THINK SO.

WE'RE IN
NO POSITION
TO REFUSE HELP.
IF YOU HURT
HER--



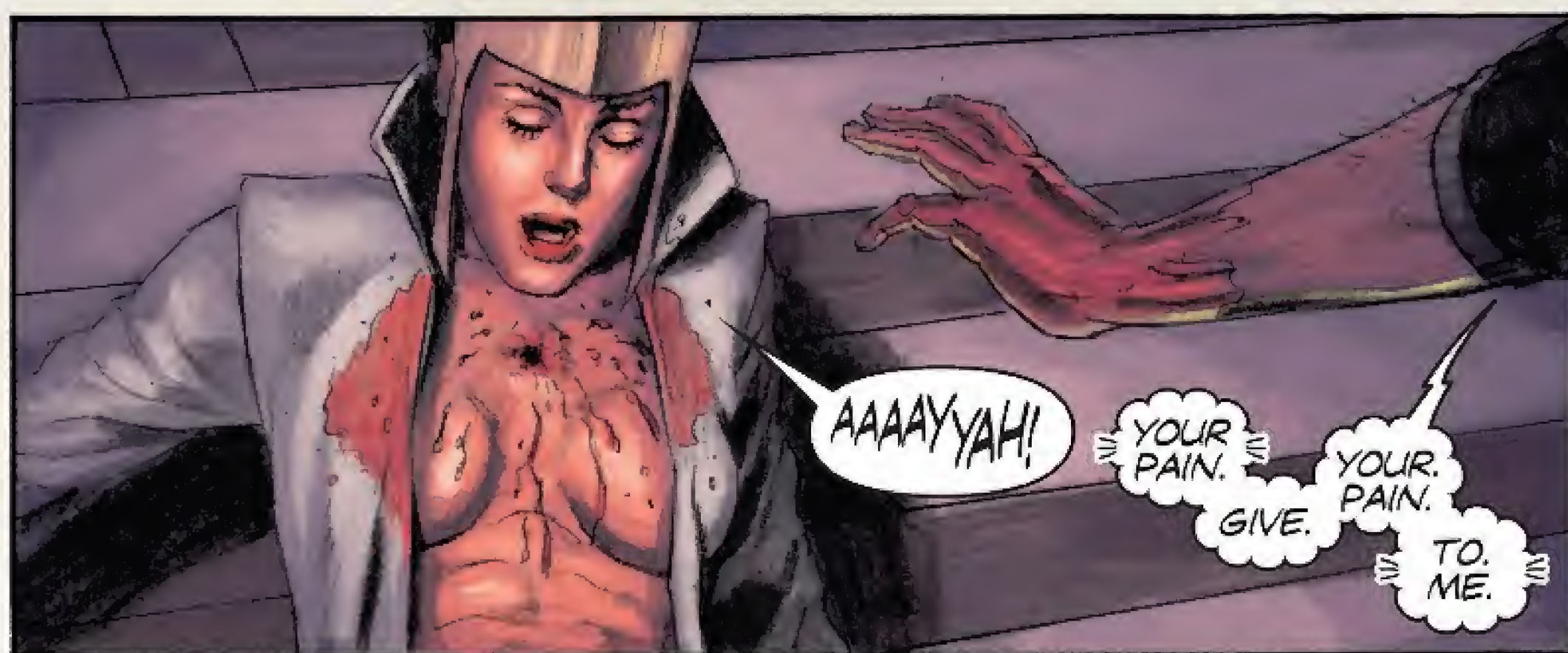
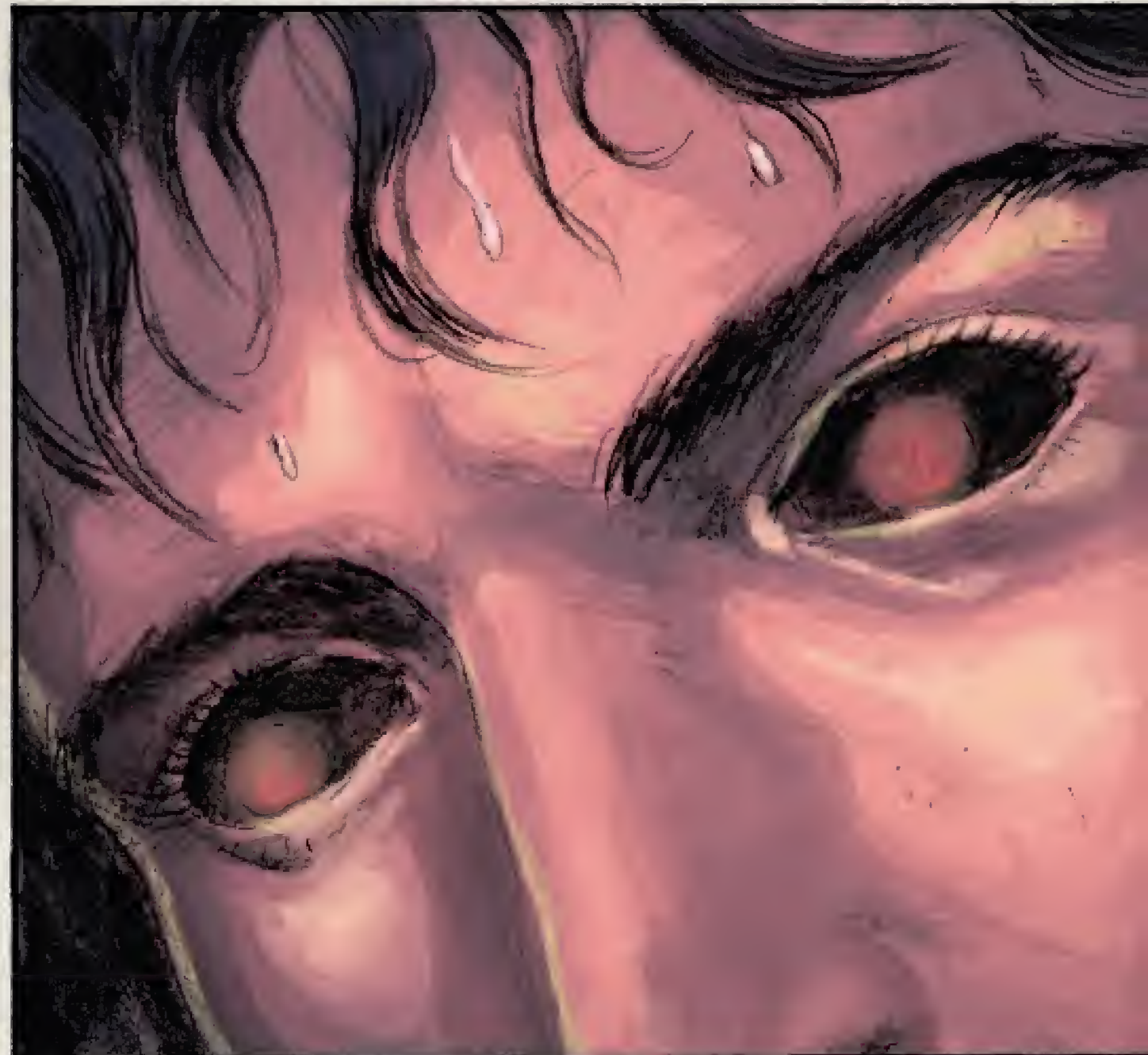
EVEN IN MY TIME,
LILITH'S REPUTATION
PRECEDES HER...BUT
SHE IS STILL MY
GRANDMOTHER.



HNNH.
W-WHAT IS HE
DOING...?

FEAR
NOT.





HE'S TAKING
THEM INSIDE THE
DOME.

THIS
SIMPLY CANNOT
BE A POSITIVE
SIGN.

DON'T GET
INVOLVED, BAZRYS.
YOU KNOW THE
RULES, BAZRYS.



QUIT TALKING
TO YOUR DAMN
FOOL SELF AND DO
SOMETHING,
BAZRYS.





CENTERKEEP
EARTHLY OUTPOST FOR THE FORCES OF ORDER
PROVENCE, KANSAS
5:30 A.M. (CST)

YOUR TEA,
MASTER
PENDRAGON.

HMM?

OH, YES.
THANK
YOU...



...AND MY
APOLOGIES IF
I'VE NEGLECTED TO
SHOW MY GRATITUDE
FOR YOUR SERVICES
LATELY. I DON'T WANT
YOU TO FEEL
UNAPPRECIATED.

EH. IT'S
A LIVING.



WHAT'CHA
SLAVING
OVER?

A LOCATE-AND-
TRANSPORT SPELL.
VAMPIRELLA WAS SPOTTED
IN LOS ANGELES LESS
THAN 48 HOURS AGO, BUT
MY USUAL METHODS OF
FINDING HER ARE FAILING.

WELL,
BACK TO WORK.
THE ANSWER ISN'T
GOING TO...FIND...
ME...?!

WYRRRR



MISTER
PENDRAGON!
PLEASE DON'T
ATTACK!

I AM
BAZRYS OF
HELL. I NEED
YOUR AID.



OUR FRIEND
VAMPIRELLA IS IN
GRAVE DANGER.



MUCH GOOD YOU SHOW, VAN HELSING FATHER.

NOBLE IN YOUR FORM.

YOU'RE TOO KIND.



EYES, PLEASE, TO HERE. WOMEN TO ENTRANCE.



THIS IS, BEYOND ANY SHADOW OF A DOUBT...

...THE STRANGEST FAMILY REUNION I COULD EVER CONCEIVE OF.



NO ARGUMENT HERE.

BUT I'D LIKE TO FORGET EVERYTHING WEIRD FOR ONE MOMENT, AND APPRECIATE THE WOMAN I LOVE. YOU LOOK AMAZING.

THANKS. I GUESS YOU LOOK ALL RIGHT, TOO.



SEEING THE TWO OF YOU REUNITED LIKE THIS ONLY STRENGTHENS THE HOPE I'VE CARRIED IN MY HEART THESE LAST FEW MONTHS.



TO EAT, PLEASE.

SERVING OF DINNER IN THIS TIME.



WELCOME, MY FAMILY.

IT'S NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT I'VE WAITED MY ENTIRE LIFE FOR THIS.

TO THE FUTURE.

THE FUTURE.

THE FUTURE.

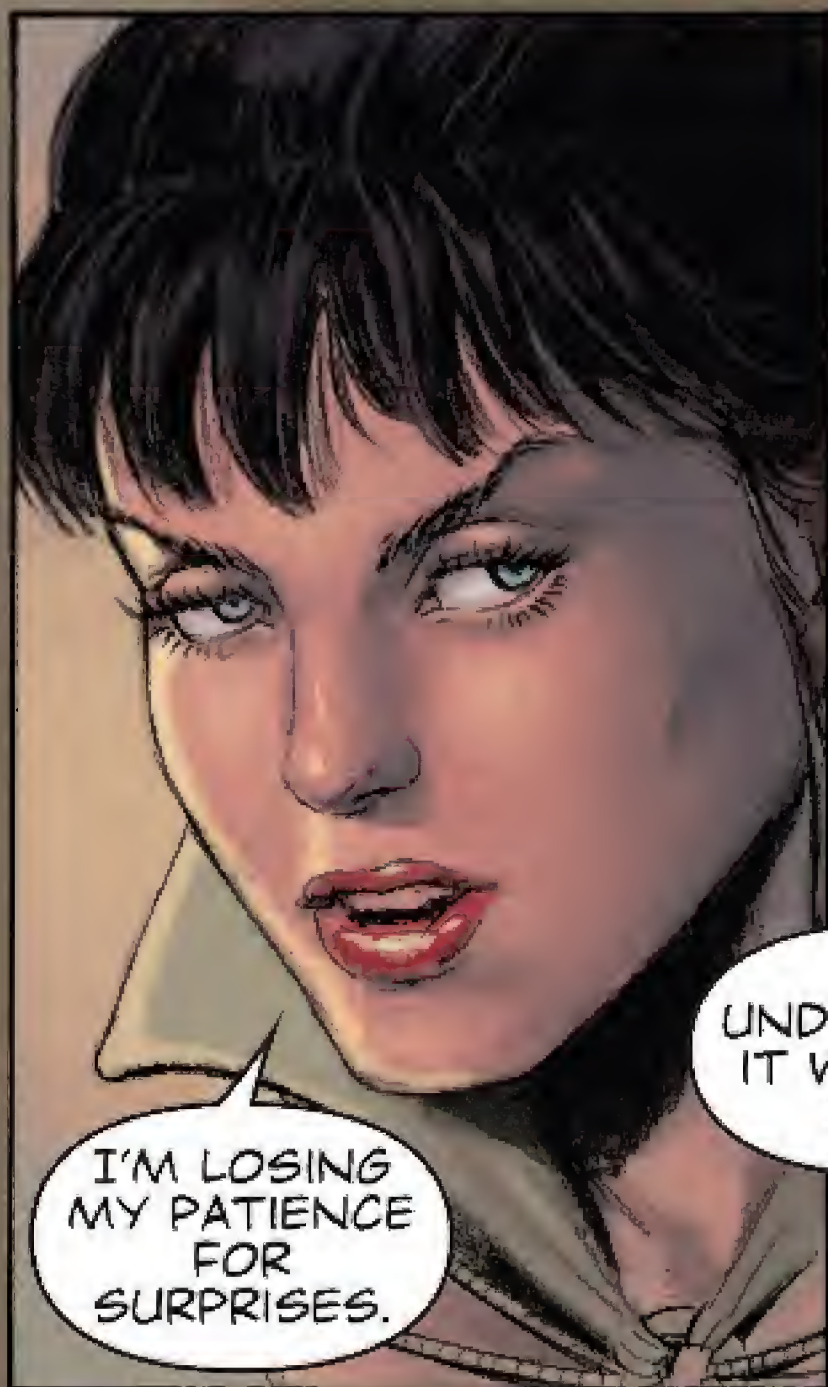
THE FUTURE.

THE FUTURE.



I PROMISED ANSWERS, AND THEY ARE FORTH-COMING.

THERE IS ONE GUEST MISSING. I'D PREFER TO WAIT FOR HIM.



I'M LOSING MY PATIENCE FOR SURPRISES.



I UNDERSTAND. IT WON'T BE LONG.

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF INVITING OTHERS. THE YOUNG LADY HERE IS MY ASSISTANT, FIRAZA. SHE'S...LOCAL.

IF I DIDN'T SEE IT, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.



LOOKING AT THIS TABLE, I CAN'T HELP THINKING I SHOULD'VE PACKED MY WINTER COAT!

HELL HAS OBVIOUSLY FROZEN OVER.



APOLOGIES FOR THE TARDINESS, FRIENDS. I'M FINDING MYSELF IN RATHER HIGH DEMAND LATELY, AND MY SCHEDULE IS SUFFERING.

NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING, MIND YOU.

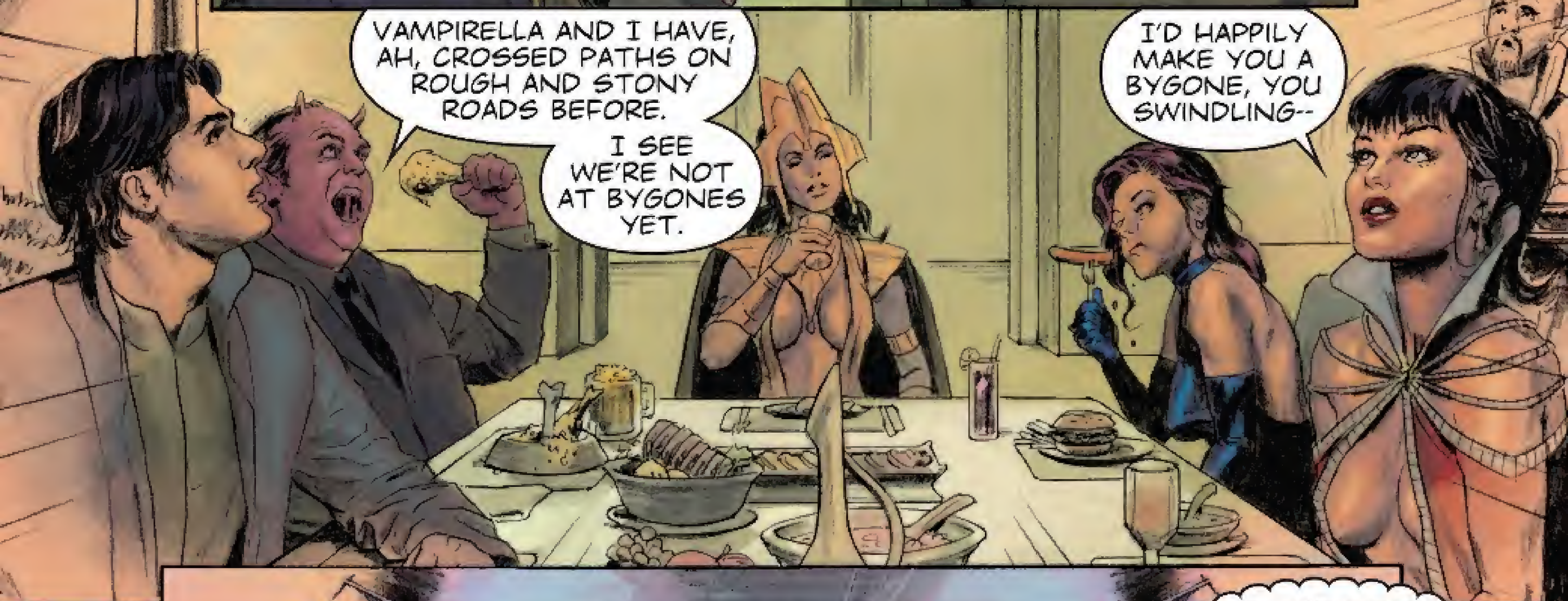
≡AH≡ I BELIEVE YOU ALL KNOW GRIGORY, YES?



OH, WE KNOW HIM VERY WELL. I'VE WANTED TO CATCH UP WITH GRIGORY FOR A WHILE NOW--



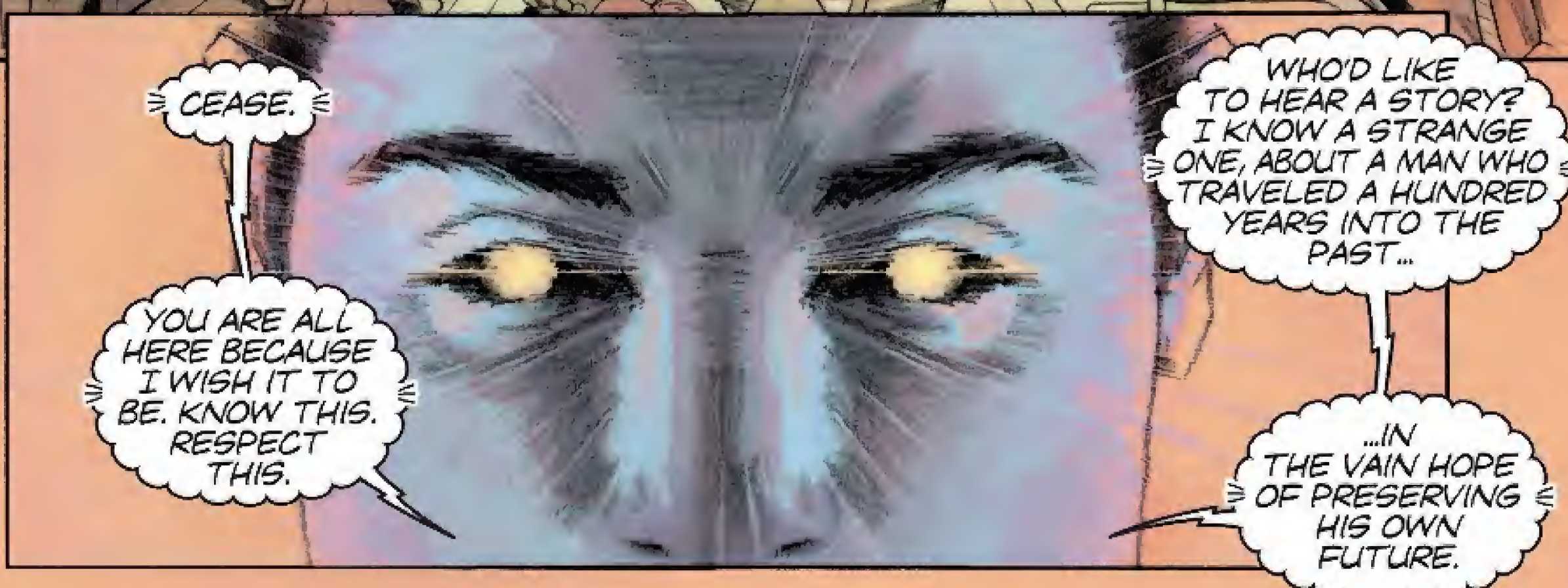
WELL, THIS IS EMBARRASSING.



VAMPIRELLA AND I HAVE, AH, CROSSED PATHS ON ROUGH AND STONY ROADS BEFORE.

I SEE WE'RE NOT AT BYGONES YET.

I'D HAPPILY MAKE YOU A BYGONE, YOU SWINDLING--



≡CEASE.≡

YOU ARE ALL HERE BECAUSE I WISH IT TO BE. KNOW THIS. RESPECT THIS.

WHO'D LIKE TO HEAR A STORY? I KNOW A STRANGE ONE, ABOUT A MAN WHO TRAVELED A HUNDRED YEARS INTO THE PAST...

...IN THE VAIN HOPE OF PRESERVING HIS OWN FUTURE.

ONE YEAR AGO

MARK THE SURGES.
STOPWATCH ON THE
INTERVALS.

SPIKING!
HERE COMES
THE BIG HIT--

FULL STOP
ACROSS THE GRID!
BACKUPS SHOULD'VE
TRIGGERED
IMMEDIATELY.

NOT GOOD.
REALLY NOT
GOOD.

PRRRUUUMMMM

POK
POK

POK
POK

POK
POK

POK

CAN ANYBODY ELSE PLEASE
TELL ME THEY SEE THAT?

"TIME TRAVEL IS STILL NOT A SCIENCE OF REFINED PRECISION. I HAD HOPED TO CROSS THROUGH AT ISTANBUL, NOT AUSTRALIA.



"INCIDENTALLY, THE RULES THAT FORBID CROSS-TIME INTERACTION, CITING A 'BUTTERFLY EFFECT,' ARE IDIOTIC. KILLING A WORLD LEADER MAY CHANGE THE FUTURE; BEING SEEN BY SOLDIERS WILL NOT.

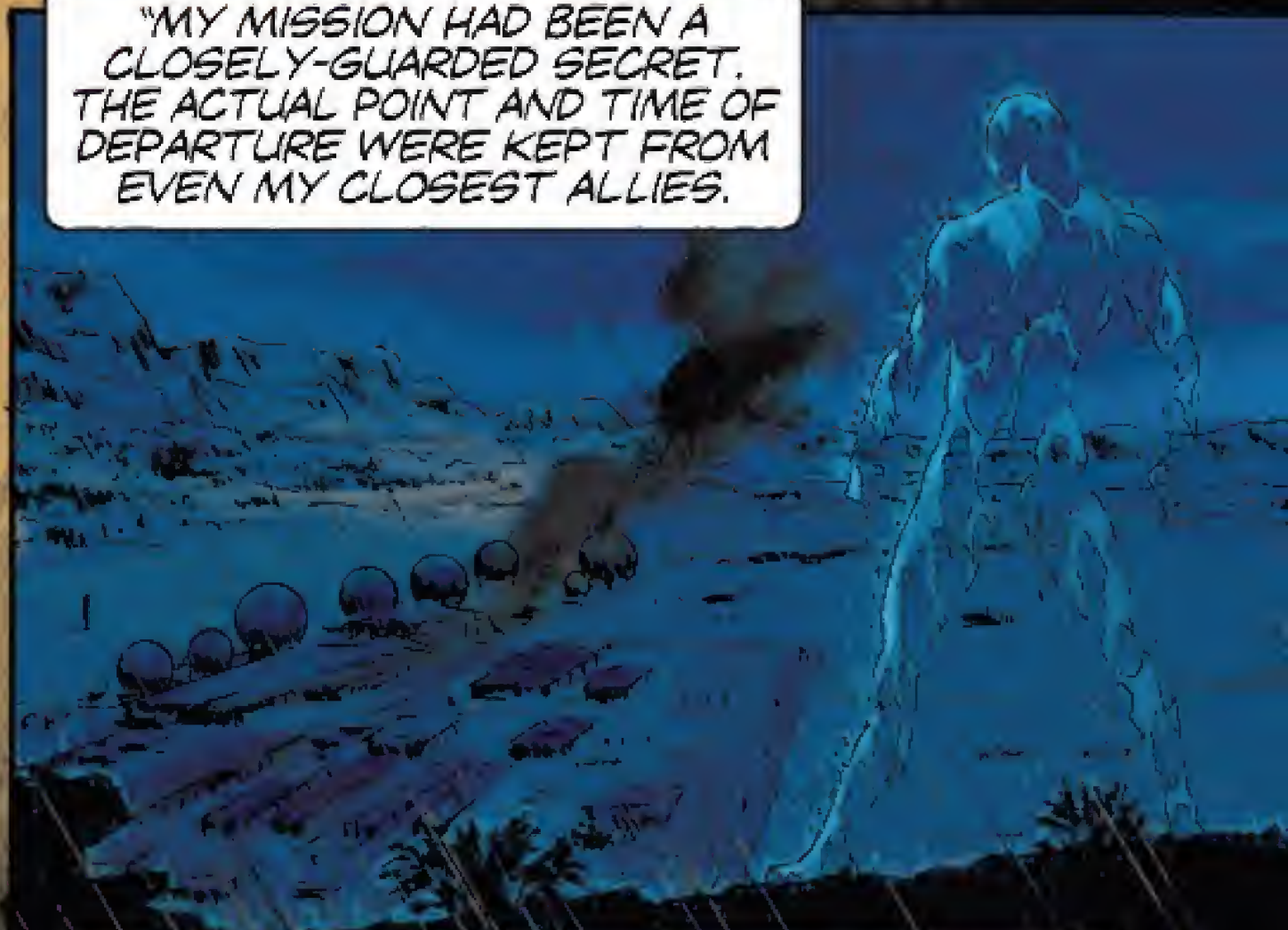


"ON THE OTHER HAND, STEALTH AND DISCRETION ARE TACTICS OF COMMON SENSE, AND MY LARGER PLAN WAS ALREADY IN DISARRAY.



"I MADE MY ESCAPE, MOVING TO A SECURE, HIGH-GROUND POSITION NEARBY.

"MY MISSION HAD BEEN A CLOSELY-GUARDED SECRET. THE ACTUAL POINT AND TIME OF DEPARTURE WERE KEPT FROM EVEN MY CLOSEST ALLIES.

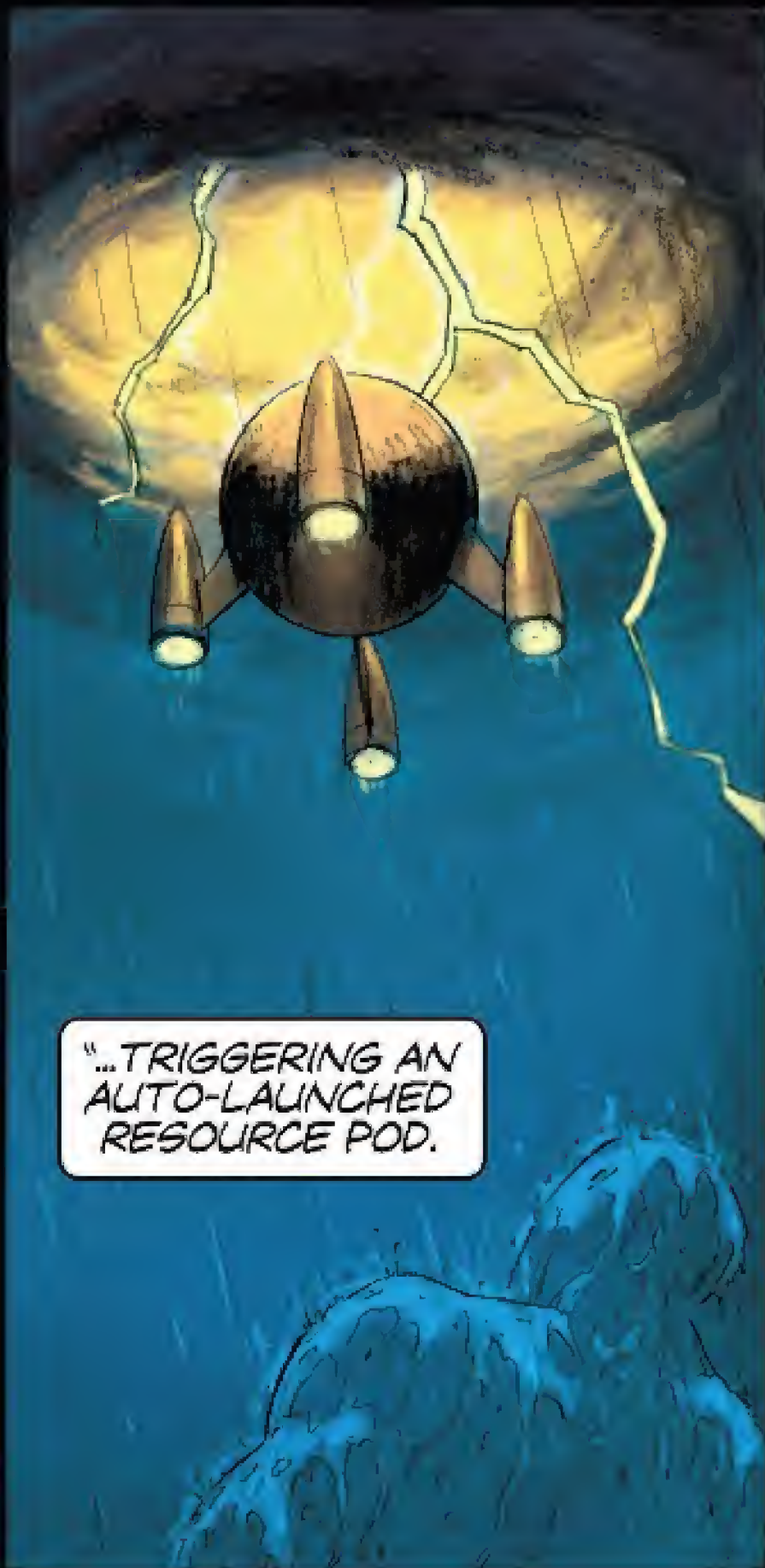


"IT WAS A SELFISH CHOICE. IF THEY WERE CAPTURED, THEIR IGNORANCE OF THE PLAN WOULDN'T KEEP THEM FROM SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF TELEPATHS AND TORTURERS."



"WITH PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT IN EQUALLY SHORT SUPPLY, RISK WAS MINIMIZED WITH YET ANOTHER LAYER OF SECURITY.

"IF I HADN'T MADE IT THROUGH, AT LEAST WE WOULDN'T BE WASTING MATERIALS. A CONFIRMATION SIGNAL WAS SENT...



"...TRIGGERING AN AUTO-LAUNCHED RESOURCE POD.



"ANY FEELING OF CONFIDENCE IN MY MISSION HAD EVAPORATED LESS THAN 60 SECONDS AFTER MY POD CROSSED INTO THIS ERA.



"ALL MY PLANNING AND SECRECY WAS FOR NOTHING. IF I HADN'T ALLOWED MYSELF TO BE SO DEPENDENT ON WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY..."



"...THEN PERHAPS MY
ENEMIES WOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW
ME THROUGH TIME AS
QUICKLY AS THEY DID."





VREEET

FRA-ZAAP

CHOOM

"I TOOK THE FLYER
DOWN, ASSUMING IT WAS
ONLY THE FIRST--AN
ADVANCE CRAFT FOR A
LARGER PURSUIT TEAM."

"I WAS SURPRISED
TO LEARN JUST
HOW WRONG I WAS
ABOUT THAT."



50X MAGNIFICATION



80X MAGNIFICATION

"TARGETING THE CRASH SURVIVORS
FROM A DISTANCE, I SAW THE FACE
OF MY MOST HATED ENEMY..."



106X MAGNIFICATION

"...THE TIMEKILLER
HIMSELF, PROFESSOR
BENJAMIN QUATERMASS."



125X MAGNIFICATION

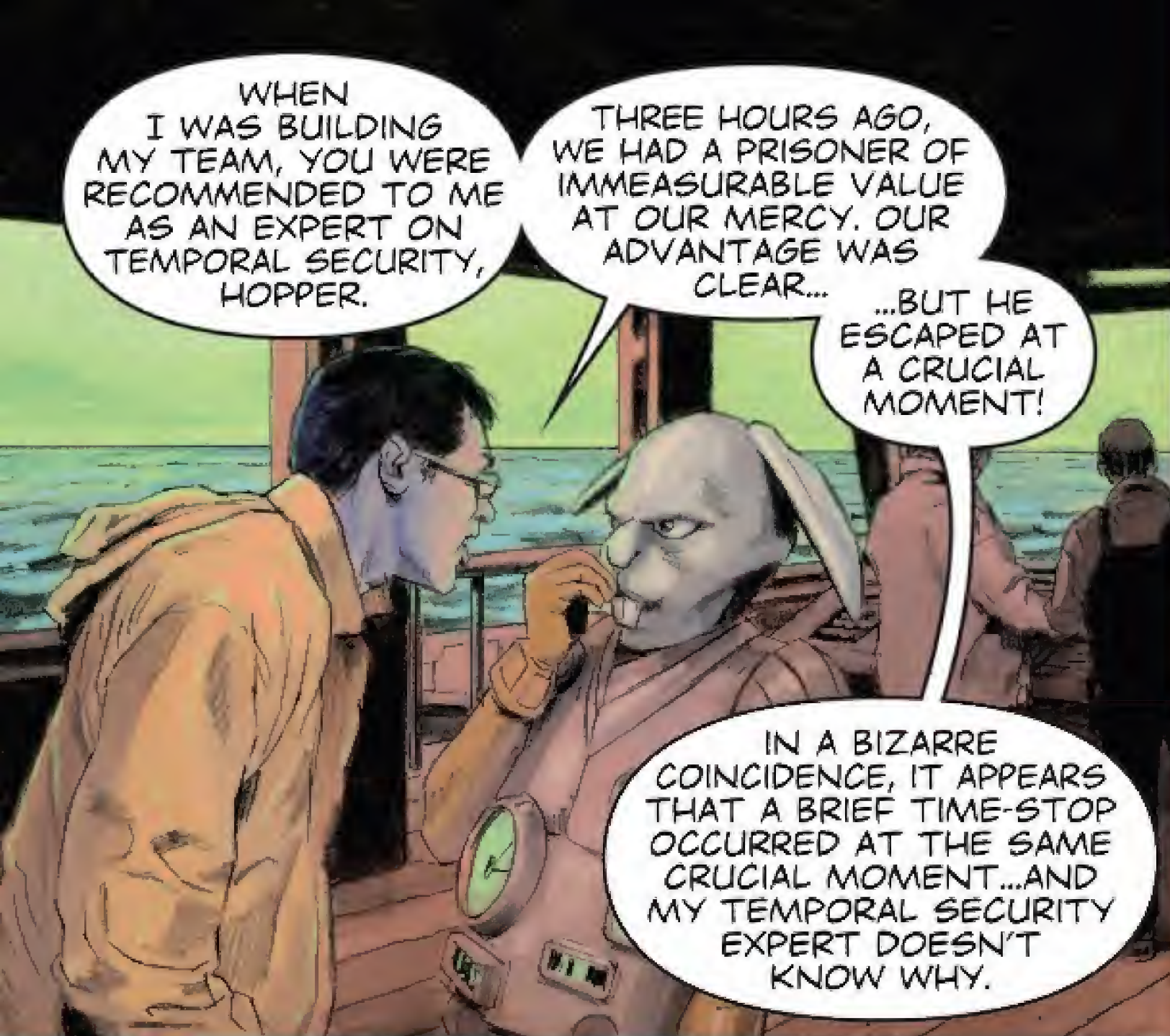


I WANT
LUKAS VAN
HELING DEAD.

I WANT HIM
HUNG, DRAWN, QUARTERED,
PINNED UP, AND FRAMED FOR
DISPLAY. I MAY EVEN INDULGE
IN THE VULGAR PRACTICE OF
MOUNTING HIS HEAD ON
A PLAQUE, AND HANGING
IT ABOVE MY
FIREPLACE.

AT THIS
MOMENT,
HOWEVER...

...THE
ENTIRE WIDTH
AND BREADTH OF
MY ANGER IS
FOCUSED DIRECTLY
AT YOU.



WHEN I WAS BUILDING MY TEAM, YOU WERE RECOMMENDED TO ME AS AN EXPERT ON TEMPORAL SECURITY, HOPPER.

THREE HOURS AGO, WE HAD A PRISONER OF IMMEASURABLE VALUE AT OUR MERCY. OUR ADVANTAGE WAS CLEAR...

...BUT HE ESCAPED AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT!

IN A BIZARRE COINCIDENCE, IT APPEARS THAT A BRIEF TIME-STOP OCCURRED AT THE SAME CRUCIAL MOMENT...AND MY TEMPORAL SECURITY EXPERT DOESN'T KNOW WHY.



I WAS AFFECTED BY THE TIME-STOP, TOO.

THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN; I'M ALREADY TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW IT DID.

GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR FULL ATTENTION.

I WILL, ONCE WE FINISH THE TRANSITION TO OMEGA PHASE--



--YOUR OMEGA PHASE DUTIES WILL BE ABSORBED BY THE SCIENCE CABAL.



KANSAS MISSION IS UNDERWAY, SIR.

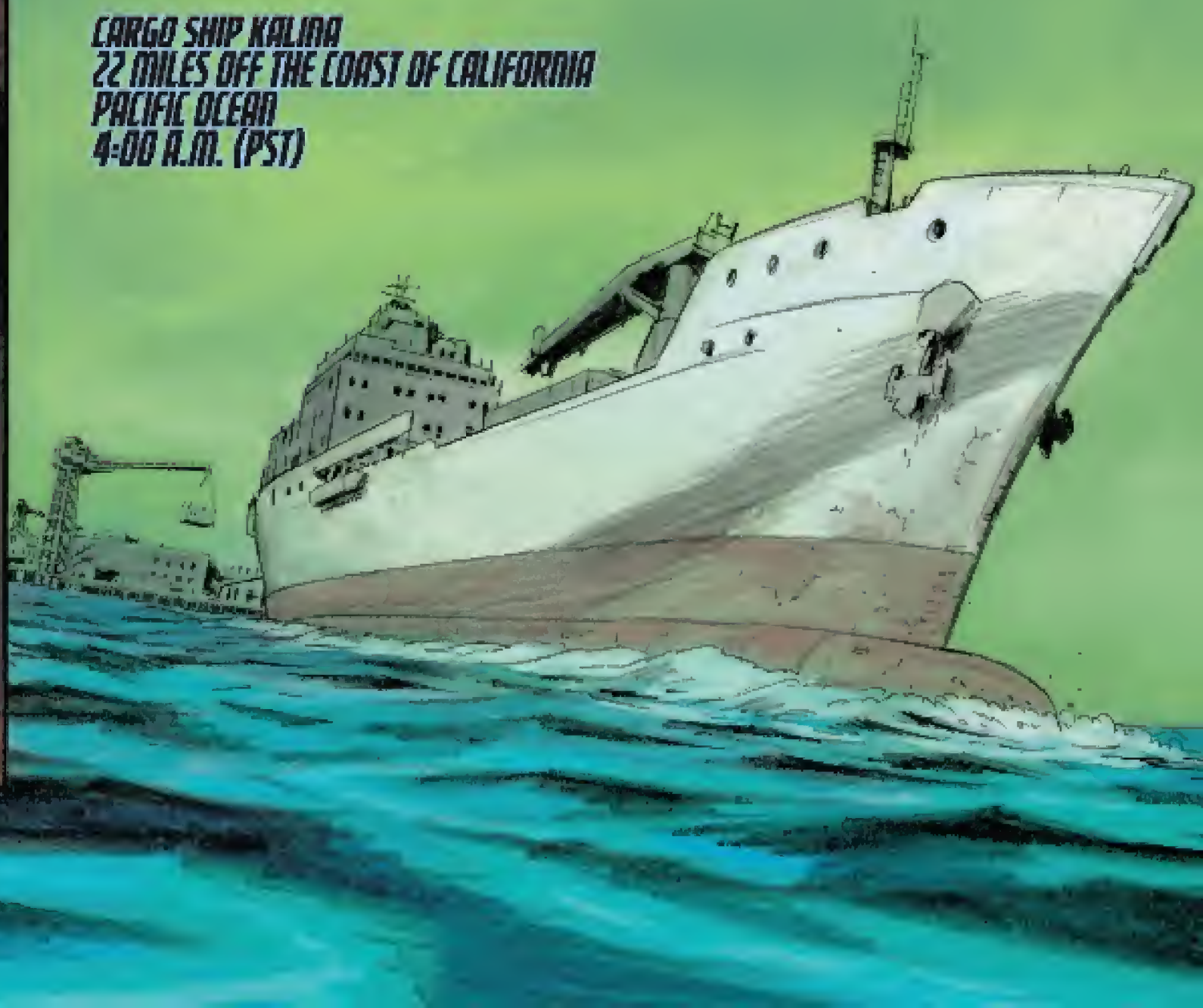
THE WITCHES WERE AGREEABLE...?




"WITCHES"? I THOUGHT WE DECIDED THEY WERE TOO GREAT A RISK.

THEY WERE, BEFORE WE LOST OUR PRISONER. RISK IS RELATIVE NOW.

CARGO SHIP KALINA
22 MILES OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA
PACIFIC OCEAN
4:00 A.M. (PST)






AS VAMPIRELLA'S
OFFICIAL LIASON IN
HELL, I CAN FIND HER
ANYWHERE IN THE
REALM.


YOU'RE SURE
THAT WORKS
WITHIN THE DOME?
YOU SAID IT'S
INDEPENDENTLY
RULED.

WE CAN USE HER
AS A FOCAL POINT FOR
THE TRANSPORT SPELL,
BUT THE EXTRACTION
MUST BE QUICK.



YOU HAVE
VISITORS,
PENDRAGON.

TELL
THEM I'M
BUSY,
SKAAR.



TELL THEM
YOURSELF, WIZARD.
THEY TRAVELED QUITE
FAR, AND THEY'RE...
CRANKY.

I THINK IT GOES LIKE THIS:

VAMPIRELLA GOES LOOKING FOR ADAM VAN HELSING, AND DROPS OFF THE RADAR FOR SIX MONTHS. HER FRIENDS SCATTER TO THE WIND.

QUATERMASS JERKS ME AROUND WITH MIND GAMES, WHILE HIS HUNTSMEN TRACK VAMPI.

MEANWHILE, TWO NEW BAD GUYS START MAKING QUIET MOVES:

THE CONJURESS AND HER CREW HAVE A SERIES OF ROUGH BOUTS WITH THE HUNTSMEN. QUATERMASS KIDNAPS ME, BUT ONE OF HIS MEN HELPS ME ESCAPE.

VAMPI AND LILITH--AS IN, "HER MOTHER, WHO IS ALSO ONE OF HER WORST ENEMIES" LILITH--

--GO TO HELL TO RESCUE ADAM FROM NEW BAD GUY #2. WE DON'T KNOW HIS NAME, BUT HE'S GOT ENOUGH PULL TO LEASE ACREAGE FROM THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

YOUR SUMMARY IS ACCURATE IN ITS SAD ABSURDITY, CRISWELL.

I CANNOT HELP PRESUMING A CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR NEW ANTAGONISTS.

I KNOW ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

SOMETHING WRONG, BAZRYS...?

WHAT? AH...NO. I'M READY.





THE STORY'S INTERESTING, BUT YOU'RE ONLY TELLING US *HOW* YOU CAME HERE. WHEN DO WE FIND OUT *WHY*?

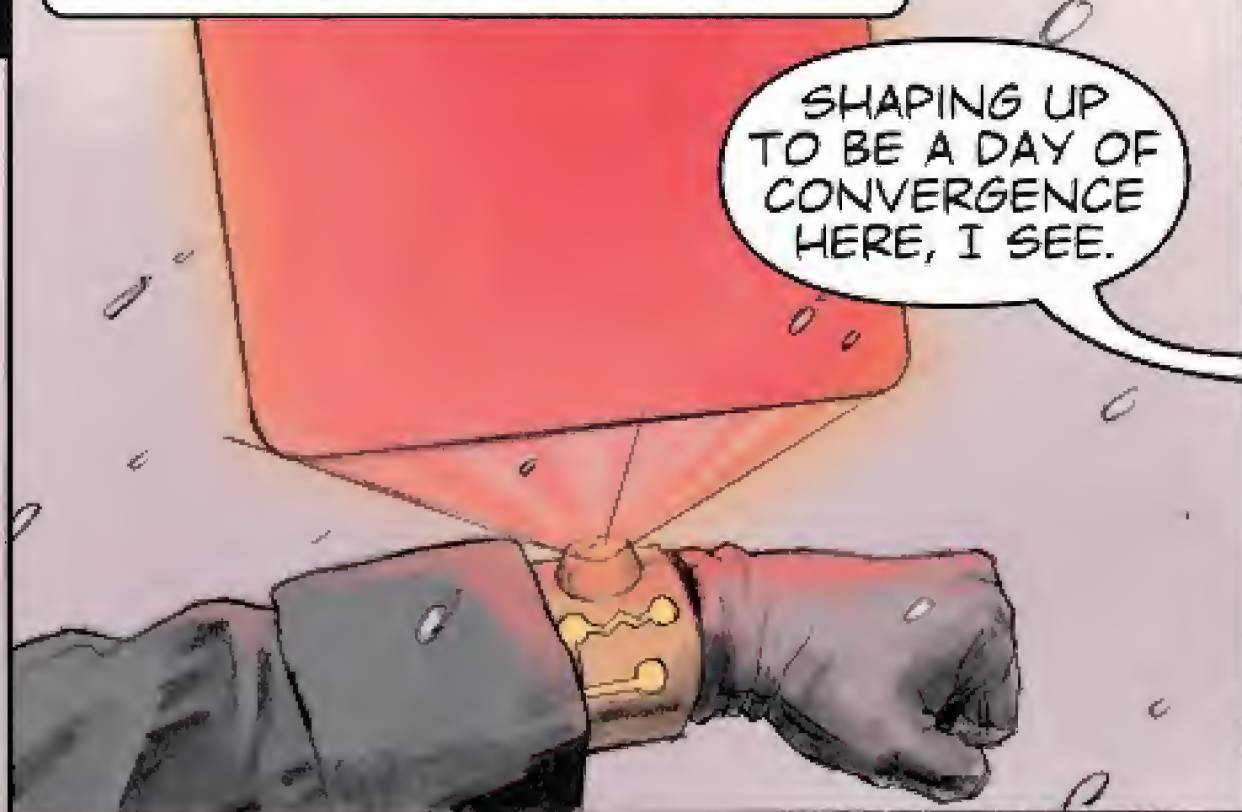
ISN'T IT USUALLY THE PARENT REMINDING THE CHILD TO BE PATIENT?

ANI, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
ONE YEAR AGO



"I ARRIVED AT ANI A FEW HOURS BEFORE YOU DID, MOTHER. WE WOULD HAVE MET THAT DAY..."

SHAPING UP TO BE A DAY OF CONVERGENCE HERE, I SEE.



"...IF GRIGORY HADN'T MET ME FIRST."

YOUR COMING WAS FORETOLD, OF COURSE...

BUT I RARELY INVEST MYSELF IN PROPHECY.



IN THIS CASE, I HAD ONLY TO CONSIDER THE SOURCE. YOU CAN READ IT, IF YOU'D LIKE...BUT NOT YET.

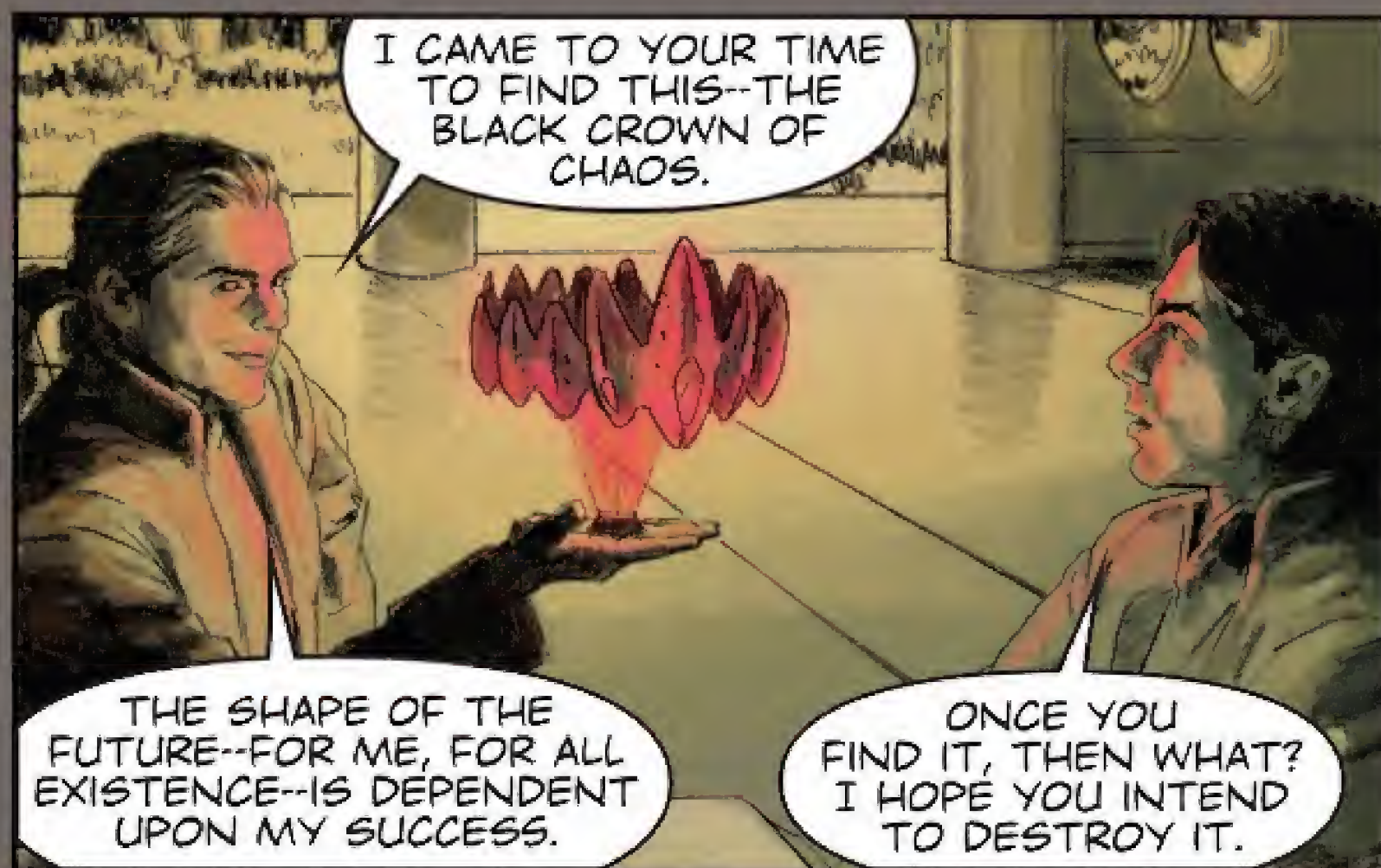


GRIGORY KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS, BLOOD-SON. YOU ONLY KNOW THE PAST.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO AVOID A MISTAKE RIGHT NOW, I'D SUGGEST YOU LISTEN.

"I WAS SUSPICIOUS, BUT MY ENIGMATIC NEW FRIEND PROVED TO BE QUITE CONVINCING."

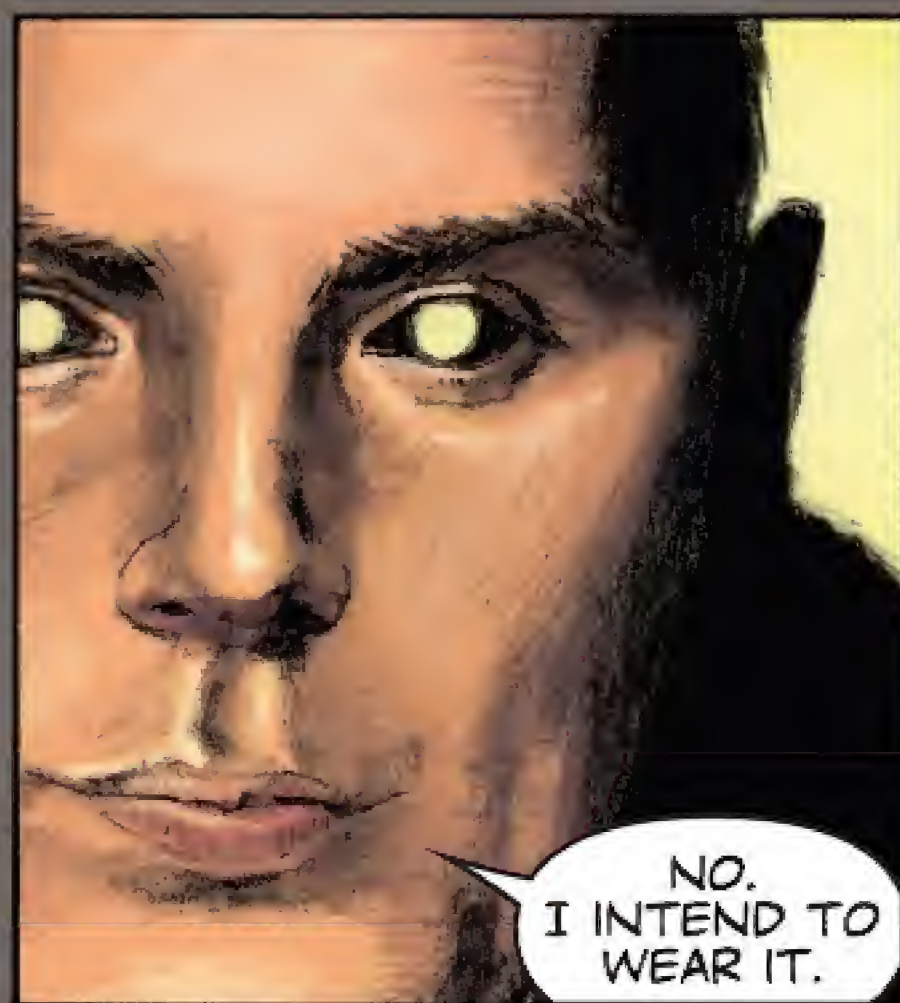




I CAME TO YOUR TIME TO FIND THIS--THE BLACK CROWN OF CHAOS.

THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE--FOR ME, FOR ALL EXISTENCE--IS DEPENDENT UPON MY SUCCESS.

ONCE YOU FIND IT, THEN WHAT? I HOPE YOU INTEND TO DESTROY IT.



NO. I INTEND TO WEAR IT.



I KNEW IT! YOU'RE NOT OUR SON.

YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SCHEMING LITTLE BASTARD WHO WANTS TO STEP UP AND PLAY DICTATOR!

GO AHEAD AND TRY IT. WE'LL ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST OF FOOLS WHO DECIDED TO LEARN THE HARD WAY.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

WYYYRR

I'LL USE THE CROWN TO OVERTHROW--



PENDRAGON, NO!

THROUGH THE PORTAL! HURRY!



ZWAOW



HOW IS HE?

WEAK. IT'S LIKE HOLDING A BAG OF WATER.

I'M SORRY. WE DIDN'T KNOW--

YOU COULDN'T HAVE.

BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT LUKAS SHOULD HAVE KNOWN?

PERHAPS THE FUTURE IS CHANGING. I'LL BE MAKING SOME ALTERATIONS TO IT MYSELF, IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

AS YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED, I AM QUATERMASS. MY ACTIONS HAVE VILLIFIED ME, BUT SO BE IT; THE END WILL JUSTIFY THE MEANS.



YOUR FRIENDS ARE IN STASIS. YOU WILL JOIN THEM, AND I'LL DECIDE HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH YOU AFTER MY WORK IS DONE.





TO BE CONTINUED!